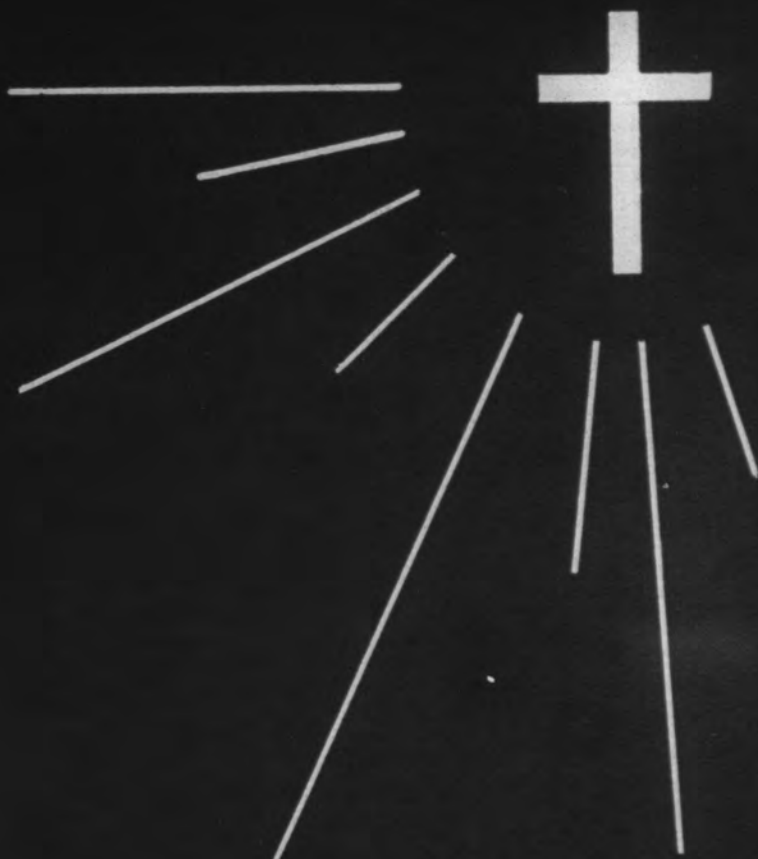


St. Augustine's

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ESSENGER

PUBLICATION OFFICE
TECHNY, ILLINOIS

ST.
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SEMINARY
BAY ST. LOUIS, MISS.

Vol. XXI, No. 6
JUNE-JULY, 1943

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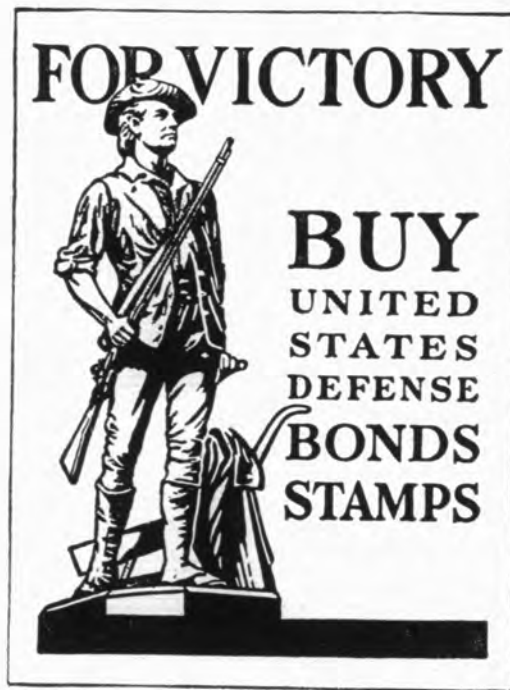


BENEDICTION DURING CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION
IN BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI

For GOD and for COUNTRY!

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**Attention,
Mr. and Mrs. America —**



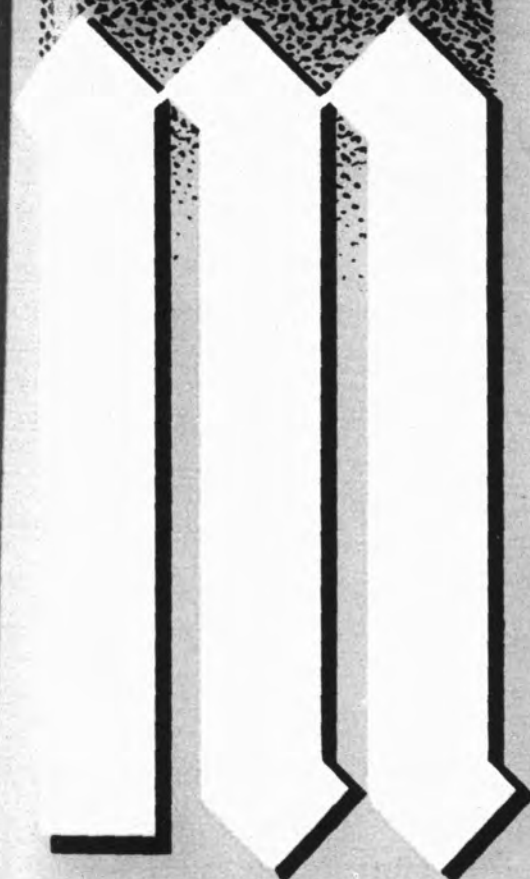
- ◆ You are probably earning more money now than you have ever earned before. It would be wise for you to save some of it for the time when wages will not be so high.
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St. Augustine's Seminary
Bay Saint Louis, Miss.

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MILLIONS OF SOULS TO BE SAVED!

MORE AND MORE PRIESTS ARE NEEDED
IN THE NEGRO MISSIONS OF THE U. S. A.

Courageous American Boys and Young Men who are not afraid of
sacrifice and hard work and who would like to become **Missionary**
Priests are invited to write to

REV. FATHER PREFECT
St. Augustine's Seminary
BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

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BOYS

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who desire to become

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in the

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ESTABLISHMENT OF NEGRO CLERGY

A Catholic Negro magazine, published monthly, except July, at Techny, Illinois, by St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Subscription \$1.00 a year. Proceeds are used for the education of colored students for the priesthood.

Entered as second-class matter January 1, 1940, at the post office at Techny, Illinois, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of Oct. 3, 1917, authorized July 19, 1918.

Editor: CLARENCE J. HOWARD, S.V.D.
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THE NEW ST. MARY'S MISSION, WEIMAR, TEXAS

San Antonio Archdiocese Adds Another

CLARENCE J. HOWARD, S.V. D.

- New Colored Mission in Weimar
- Is the Fifth in the Archdiocese

There are 1,000 Negro Catholics in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. To care for these there are 5 mission churches and 7 priests — 5 Josephites, one Holy Cross Father and one diocesan priest.

The latest church to be established for the exclusive use of colored Catholics is St. Mary's Church in Weimar, Texas, which was dedicated in February of this year by Most Rev. Robert E. Lucey, D.D., Archbishop of San Antonio.

Back in 1937 the first colored Catholic convert in Weimar was baptized by Monsignor Joseph Szyman-ski, pastor of St. Michael's Church in Weimar. In the following year four other converts were baptized. In 1941 a one-room instruction cen-

ter was established for those who wished to become Catholics.

Last year a 56-year-old building, originally an Odd Fellows' lodge hall, but then being used as a café, was purchased. The building was completely renovated and made into a neat little mission church. Rev. Vaclav Bily, a zealous diocesan priest, is in charge of this new St. Mary's Church.

Besides St. Mary's in Weimar, there are Holy Redeemer Church, St. Catherine's Church and St. Peter Claver's Church located in San Antonio and under the care of the Josephite Fathers, and Holy Family Church just established in South Austin last year under the care of a Holy Cross Father.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

Connected with these missions are three grammar schools and a high school with a total of 682 Negro pupils taught by 16 Sisters and 2 lay teachers. Five colored Sisters of the Holy Family conduct Holy Redeemer School in San Antonio, which has an enrollment of 219 pupils. Two Sisters of the Holy Ghost teach 40 pupils in St. Catherine's School, while 9 Sisters of the Holy Ghost and 2 lay teachers conduct St. Peter Claver's Grammar School and High School, the former having an enrollment of 302 pupils and the latter 160 pupils. St. Peter Claver's is an accredited high school and is at the same time a boarding school for colored girls.

Archbishop Lucey is very much interested in the colored mission work in his Archdiocese, and we feel sure that the establishment of St. Mary's in Weimar is but the prelude to a further expansion of the Negro Apostolate in the San Antonio Archdiocese.

* * *

Of the five dioceses and one archdiocese in the State of Texas, four — San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Dallas and Galveston — have a combined population of 13,609 Negro Catholics distributed as follows:

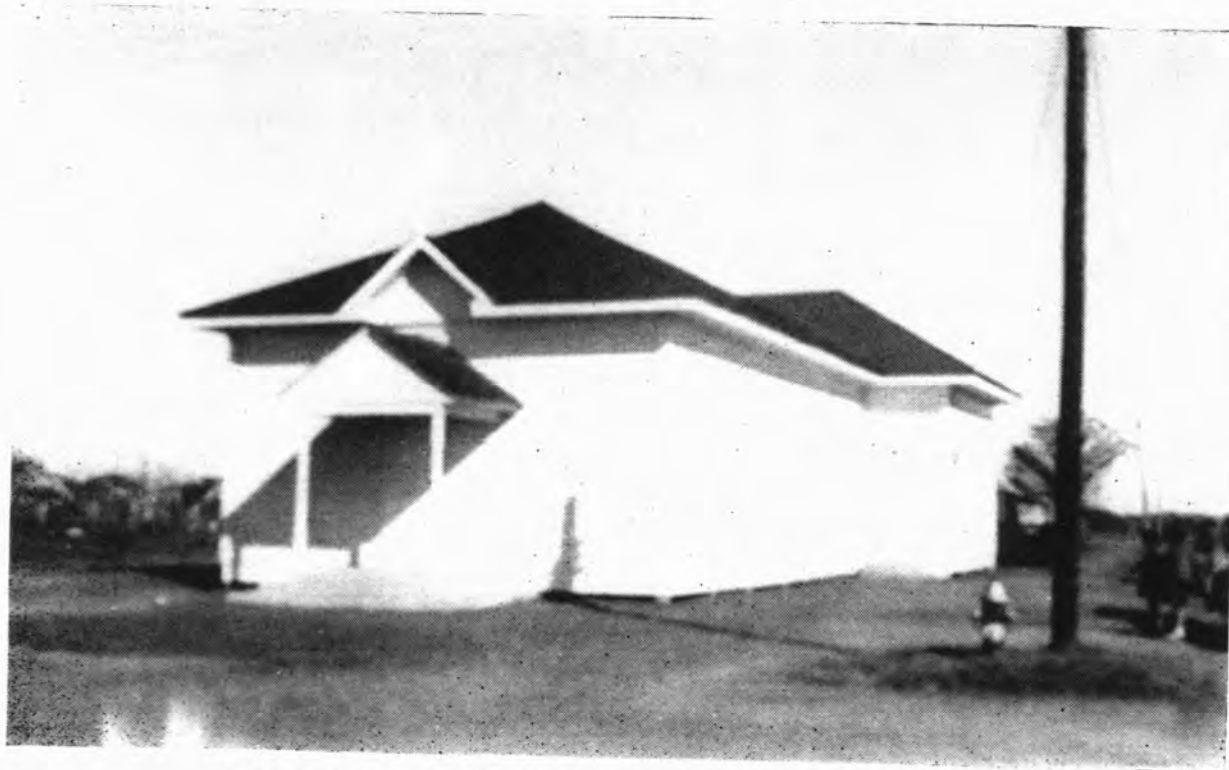
San Antonio	1,000
Corpus Christi	240
Dallas	955
Galveston	11,414
Total	13,609



At present the War prevents the sending of new Missionaries to most of the Foreign Mission lands. Could not many of these missionary priests and Sisters be sent into the Home Missions among the Negroes in our own Southland? Here is an opportunity to draw limitless spiritual good out of conditions created by the present emergency.



INTERIOR OF ST. MARY'S MISSION CHURCH, WEIMAR, TEXAS



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INTERIOR OF ST. MARY'S MISSION CHURCH, WEIMAR, TEXAS



DRESSED AS BRIDES THE POSTULANTS KNEEL AT THE ALTAR RAIL as they are received into the novitiate. In a few moments this bridal attire will be exchanged for the religious garbs in the baskets held by the little girls in the rear

Holy Family Sisters Receive Novices

- 12 Receive Habit as Novices
- 15 Pronounce First Vows

On March 19, in New Orleans, La., twelve young ladies were clothed with the religious habit and began their two-year noviceship with the Sisters of the Holy Family, a community of colored nuns founded one hundred years ago.

The newly received novices are: Sister Mary Ancilla, formerly Miss Marguerite Dugas of Breau Bridge, La.; Sister Mary Aquinata, formerly Miss Helen Cuillier of Marrero, La.; Sister Mary Bertille, formerly Miss Felicie Hazeur of Bay Saint Louis, Miss.; Sister Mary

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EXCHANGING THE WHITE VEIL OF A NOVICE FOR THE BLACK VEIL
of a professed Sister, these 15 kneeling Sisters make their first profession as members of the Community of the Holy Family

leans, La.; Sister Mary Sylvia, formerly Miss Vivian Clark of New Orleans, La.; and Sister Mary Vincent Joseph, formerly Miss Marguerite Lee of New Orleans, La.

At the same time fifteen novices completed their two-year novitiate training and made their first Religious Profession by making the Vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience for one year. They are Sister Mary Alphonsine (New Orleans, La.), Sister Mary Ann Julie (Lafayette, La.), Sister Mary Aurelia (Melrose, La.), Sister Mary Barnabas (Grand Coteau, La.), Sister Barbara Marie (Belize, Br. Honduras), Sister Mary Bonaventure (Natchez, Miss.), Sister Mary Canice (Opelousas, La.), Sister

Mary Celeste (St. Louis, Mo.), Sister Mary Edward Vincent (New Orleans, La.), Sister Mary Edwina (Puerto Rico), Sister Elydia Marie (Breaux Bridge, La.), Sister Mary Leontine (Basile, La.), Sister Marguerite Marie (Barbados, Br. West Indies), Sister Mary of the Paraclete (Opelousas, La.), and Sister Mary Providentia (Puerto Rico).

The Sisters of the Holy Family now number 244 — 225 professed Sisters and 19 novices.



There are over 1,600 Sisters, both colored and white, devoting their lives to the work of the Negro Apostolate in this country. These Sisters are members of 44 different religious communities. Their work ranges from teaching in schools and nursing in hospitals to caring for orphans and the aged.



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BLESSED GHEBRE-MICHAEL

ORLIS F. NORTH, C.M.

- Ethiopian Priest and Martyr
- Who Converted Many of His Fellow Africans

The light of the Gospel began to shine very early in Ethiopia, for Tradition relates that it was first evangelized by St. Frumentius about the middle of the fourth century. Sad to say, this light was darkened with the passing of the centuries, and at times, even extinguished for long periods.

After the introduction of the Gospel by St. Frumentius, many of the heresies which scourged the early Church spread into Ethiopia to mar, if not totally to undo, the work of this missionary. Later on it was the evil influence of Mohammedan and Turk which further dimmed the light of Faith. On occasion attempts were made to recall this little known land from the darkness of error, but for the most part these met with little success. The opposition of a schismatical hierarchy and royalty proved too much.

It was into such a country, in the region of Abyssinia, that in 1791 there was born a man destined to emerge from the darkness of schism and error into the bright light of religious truth, and with himself to bring many others. Given the name of Ghebre-Michael, this young Abyssinian was set apart for the monastic life at an early age. Remarkable even in his youth for his love of study and of virtue, he received his first training in the traditional open-air schools of his country.

From 1801 to 1807 he pursued his secondary education, chiefly



BLESSED GHEBRE-MICHAEL
1791-1855

literary, at the monastery of *Mertoule-Miriam*. After this it was up to him to make his own choice of the world or the Church as his vocation. Without the least hesitancy he chose the latter, and in 1807 he began his six-year novitiate. These were years of humiliating trials for mastering nature; they were also years of lofty study.

All the books of the Bible as well as the treatises of the Fathers and Doctors of the Oriental Church furnished a vast field for the insatiable desire for knowledge which burned in this young Abyssinian novice. Several doctrinal sects existed in the country, and among them there were sharp differences. Ghebre-Michael

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

knew that all of them couldn't be right; he was searching for the true one, which he desired to embrace for life.

Overshadowing all search for knowledge was the other aspect of his twofold ideal, that of religious perfection. It pained him to see that there was wanting among the monks the heights of perfection which he learned once existed in the ancient Church. Not the least disheartened at this laxity, he worked on and on towards knowledge and sanctity.

In 1813 the monks of the monastery of *Mertoule-Miriam* were more than anxious to welcome among their number for life such a learned and pious young man, hence, in that year Ghebre-Michael made his solemn profession. Thereafter, two paths lay open to him: the one, the strictly ascetical life, and the other, the life of a civil and ecclesiastical magistrate, as was the custom in his country. Needless to say, he immediately rejected the latter and embraced the former.

For an Abyssinian monk to be considered completely educated it was necessary that he have knowledge gathered from personal experience in all the monastic libraries of his country. Hence, two years after his profession Abba Ghebre-Michael took his pilgrim's staff and journeyed from monastery to monastery. For the next ten years he thus searched for religious truth. During this time his renown for virtue and erudition attracted a number of young scholars about him. These followed him wherever he went, as was customary, and he taught them daily in addition to carrying on his own researches.

One French life of Abba Ghebre-Michael is entitled "Towards the Light." That title concisely sums up all these years spent in search of the truth. In reading it one is forcibly reminded of that search and that battle towards light and truth which another great mind was carrying out in another country. In England it was Cardinal Newman; in Africa it was the brown-skinned Abyssinian monk. Both possessed powerful minds; both yearned and searched unrelentlessly for the truth. History has already made the one great, and it may in time make the other great also.

And still, after all these years, he had not found the object of his search. None of the schismatical teachings satisfied either his intellect or his heart, and so in 1825 he turned towards Gondar, the capital of Ethiopia, with the same burning desire in his mind. There he remained until 1838. And now, almost fifty years old, he was on the verge of obtaining his lifelong desire.

At this time in Europe another move to evangelize Ethiopia was under way. On May 24, 1839, Pope Gregory XVI had an audience with a Vincentian priest, Father Justin de Jacobis. It was a farewell audience, for Father de Jacobis, who had lately been appointed Prefect Apostolic of Ethiopia, was to depart very shortly for that foreign mission land. Father de Jacobis, whose consuming interest was mission work in foreign countries, and Abba Ghebre-Michael, whose burning desire was to know religious truth, were to meet in Ethiopia. Together they were to make considerable imprint on Ethiopian religious history.

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For years Ethiopia had been without a bishop (schismatical). And now, two or three princes of the country decided to appeal to the Coptic Patriarch of Egypt so that he might appoint a bishop. Abba Ghebre-Michael was one of those appointed to the commission delegated to seek this favor from the Patriarch. For the commission's safe passage through Mussulman country, a guide, preferably a European, was needed. Prince Oubie, who was in charge of sending the commission, chose the lately arrived missionary, Father de Jacobis.

Strange sight this, a Catholic priest providing safe passage for a group of schismatical monks. After much prayer Father de Jacobis agreed on two conditions: he was also to be allowed to conduct this group of almost twenty-five learned men on a journey to Rome, and he was to be permitted to establish a Catholic community and church in Ethiopia. Prince Oubie agreed, and the commission set out.

The Egyptian mission accomplished, Father de Jacobis guided his charge to the Eternal City where their eyes were opened and their minds astonished at the beauty and antiquity of the Roman Church. Their prejudices were lessened even more when they were granted an audience with the Holy Father. It was after this trip that Abba Ghebre-

Michael remarked of Father de Jacobis:

"I recognize in this European a man who teaches a good religion; I shall listen to him with my whole attention."

In the next years he literally fulfilled this promise.

Back in Ethiopia, under Father de Jacobis' spiritual direction, Abba Ghebre-Michael came closer and closer to the Roman Church. The time came, after a few years of doubt and study, not to speak of the persecutions, beatings and imprisonments suffered at the hands of the new schismatical bishop, when Abba Ghebre-Michael made his abjuration and was received into the Roman Catholic Church. This was in February, 1844.

From this time on he and Father de Jacobis worked hand in hand and made many converts despite the ever present difficulties afforded by the schismatical bishop and wavering rulers. Together they even established a small seminary for the education of native priests. In 1849 Father de Jacobis was made a bishop, and two years later he himself ordained Abba Ghebre-Michael to the priesthood. For fear of what might happen, this was kept as secret as possible.

The new priest even began his postulancy for entrance into the

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ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

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This last imprisonment was the beginning of the end for Abba Ghebre-Michael. A new emperor, Theodore, was ruling in Ethiopia. Joining forces with the schismatical bishop, he proposed a new formula of faith to which all were to submit. Since Abba Ghebre-Michael steadfastly refused to submit, he was

tortured, scourged, loaded with chains and finally cast into a loathsome dungeon. After fourteen months of similar treatment his captivity came to an end with his death (1855).

As often happens after the death of a very holy man, signs and prodigies, as well as the belief of the faithful in his holiness, began to manifest themselves in Abba Ghebre-Michael's regard. As a result the process of inquiry was begun in Abyssinia in 1904 and in Eritrea in 1909. On February 24, 1920, his Cause was introduced at Rome, and on October 31, 1926, Pope Pius XI beatified this martyr of Ethiopia.



HELPING IN THE WAR EFFORT ON THE HOME FRONT



These members of St. Simon's Unit of the Catholic Auxiliary for Red Cross Work in Philadelphia, Pa., received certificates for Home Nursing in February of this year. Several also received service pins for voluntary knitting and sewing for the Red Cross. Rev. Edward J. Curran, LL.D., pastor of St. David's Church, Willow Grove, Pa., and an ardent friend of the Negro Apostolate, was the visiting speaker on this occasion. The nuns in the picture are Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement who conduct St. Simon's Mission Settlement House at 507 South 9th St., in Philadelphia

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CALL THE PRIEST

JOSEPH BUSCH, S.V. D.

Ezechias was sick unto death.

"Arrange your affairs," Isaias, the Prophet, told him, "for you are going to die and shall not live."

The king turned his face to the wall and prayed, "O Lord, remember how I walked before You in truth and with a perfect heart and how I did that which pleased You." And he wept. His tears, his words, his good wishes cried for mercy.

Before Isaias had scarcely gone out of the door the word of the Lord came, "Go back, and tell Ezechias, the captain of my people, Thus saith the Lord: I have heard your prayer, and I have seen your tears: and behold I have healed you; on the third day you shall go up to the temple of the Lord and I will add to your days fifteen years."

He was to live and not to die.

When our merciful Savior, Jesus, went about in Galilee, He healed all manner of sickness and added years to the life of the captain's servant and of the son of the royal official.

Before His death Christ gave us a special Sacrament to aid us when we are sick — to add to our years, to prolong our life. Healing of the disease is *not* the chief thing that the Sacrament of Extreme Unction does for us and in many cases the Christian dies after being anointed. Yet it is a plain truth of our Catholic Faith that the cure of the sick person, and not merely his happy death, was intended by our merciful Savior.

St. James, who understood the mind of Christ, urged the sick to call the priest. By his anointing with oil and prayer they were to get

help for soul and body. "The prayer of faith will save the sick man and the Lord will raise him up and if he be in sins they shall be forgiven him."

Help for the sick soul is the chief thing — that we may die as friends of God with greater love for Him in our hearts and less stain of sin on our souls, but the Church, who knows the mind of Christ, stresses getting well.

On Holy Thursday the successor of the Apostles, the bishop, in blessing the Oil of the Sick asks God to send from heaven the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, that the oil may banish all pains, all diseases, all sickness of mind and body.

And when the priest administers the sacrament, the Church tells him to pray, "May there enter, O Lord Jesus Christ, into this house (together with me your insignificant servant) . . . *abiding health*":

"May he deliver them from all fear and all disquiet and vouchsafe to keep in *health* them that dwell in this house."

"*Cure*, we beseech You, O our Redeemer, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, the ailments of this sick man; *heal* his wounds and forgive his sins; *drive* out from him all pain of body and mind, and mercifully restore him to *full health* . . . that he may be enabled to return to his former duties."

Finally the priest begs God, "graciously draw near at the invocation of Your Name, that having *freed* Your servant from *sickness* and bestowed health upon him, You may raise him up by Your right

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

hand, strengthen him by Your might, defend him by Your power, and restore him to your Holy Church with all the prosperity he desires."

If the priest says those prayers, where lies the trouble? Why do the sick not get well? Perhaps we are to blame. Maybe we don't do *our* part. We are unworthy of cure. There were many lepers in Israel in the days of Eliseus, but only Naaman was healed. They were not worthy of God's healing power.

Or we lack firm faith, we don't pray enough or weep in His sight and above all guarantee Him by our past life that we shall behave ourselves if He cures us. It may be that we wait *too long* to call the priest. He comes in the Name of Christ and should not be called too late. There should be a sickness that puts the person in some danger

of death — he *may* die — but it is not right to wait until there is no longer any hope — until he is at the point of death.

Too many imitate the woman in the gospel who for 12 years spent all her money on doctors (and, I suppose, on patent medicines) but was not cured. She touched the hem of Christ's garment and at once was healed. It is well to call a doctor — the Holy Spirit tells us to honor him — but don't neglect to call the priest. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose. The Sacrament may be a powerful boost on the road to health. Try it.

Today Jesus is as good, as merciful, as mighty as He was when He healed all manner of sickness in Galilee. Put your trust in Him and especially if the patient is badly needed, for example, is the father or mother of little children, plead for

(Continued on page 135)¹

TOMORROW AND TODAY

MAURICE ROUSSEVE, S.V.D.

Tomorrow we'll be better men, we say;
Tomorrow fight more bravely than today;
Tomorrow we'll be farther on life's way;
Tomorrow will be time enough to pray,
Tomorrow will be soon enough to pay
Our debts to God and in His friendship stay.

'Tis thus we waste our strength in dreamy play,
Procrastinating priceless lives away,
In counting of the morrows promised none
And hardly doing that which should be done
Today.

'Tis thus our foolish hearts forget
That morrow never comes, and let
The golden seconds of today slip by
And never reach Tomorrow till we die.

For no one ever chanced upon
The future, while the past is gone.
Today alone is ours and, O hearts of clay,
Eternity itself is but one long Today.

S.V.D. NEGRO MISSIONS IN

(January, 1942 to January, 1943)

	Priests	Catholics
Archdiocese of Chicago		
St. Anselm's Church, Chicago, Ill.	3	3,600
St. Elizabeth's Church, Chicago, Ill.	4	2,500
Archdiocese of New Orleans		
Blessed Martin's Chapel, Davant, La.	1	600
St. Cecilia's Chapel, Jesuit Bend, La.	1	245
St. Joseph's Chapel, Bohemia, La.	1	220
St. Joseph's Chapel, Myrtle Grove, La.		80
St. Sophie's Chapel, Phoenix, La.		80
Archdiocese of St. Louis		
St. Nicholas' Church, St. Louis, Mo.	3	500
Archdiocese of San Francisco		
St. Benedict the Moor Church, San Francisco, Calif.	1	85
Diocese of Lafayette		
Blessed Martin de Porres' Chapel, Scott, La.		600
Holy Rosary Institute, Lafayette, La.	1	
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lafayette, La.	3	2,000
Notre Dame Church, St. Martinville, La.	3	2,800
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel, St. John, La.		250
St. Anthony's Chapel, Cade, La.		200
St. Benedict the Moor Church, Duson, La.	1	535
St. John Vianney's Chapel, Mouton Switch, La.		500
Diocese of Little Rock		
St. Augustine's Church, North Little Rock, Ark.	1	113
St. Bartholomew's Church, Little Rock, Ark.	1	200
St. Peter's Church, Pine Bluff, Ark.	2	103
Diocese of Natchez		
Holy Ghost Church, Jackson, Miss.	2	354
Sacred Heart Church, Greenville, Miss.	2	275
St. Francis' Church, Yazoo City, Miss.	1	31
St. Joseph's Church, Meridian, Miss.	2	200
St. Mary's Church, Vicksburg, Miss.	2	210
St. Rose de Lima Church, Bay St. Louis, Miss.	1	682
St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Miss.	15 { and 15 SVD }	
(With Negro troops in the Army)	1 { Brothers }	
	1 Chaplain	
Diocese of Trenton		
Church of Our Lady of the Divine Shepherd, Trenton, N. J.	2	150
St. Peter Claver's Church, Asbury Park, N. J.	2	125
TOTALS:	56	17,238

¹Grammar school and high school. ²Doing Social Service work and conducting of the Holy Ghost, 41 Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, 12 Sisters of the Holy Franciscan Sisters of Vienna, and 2 Helpers of the Holy Souls.

SIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

ary, 1942 to January, 1943)

	Catholics	Communions	BAPTISMS		Pupils	Sisters	Lay Teachers
			Infants	Adults			
	3,600	38,000	92	171	681	15	
	2,500	25,000	55	75	1,057 ¹	24	
	600	1,800	15		95		2
	245	900	3		90		2
	220	500	10		62		1
	80	300	1		50		1
	80	200	5				
	500	2,000	40	30	440 ¹	7	1
	85	1,000	7	10		2 ²	
	600	2,900	26				
		5,000		12	186 ¹	8	
	2,000	10,500	114	16	160	4	
	2,800	24,267	101	9	286	2	3
	250	2,300	13				
	200	1,700	10				
	535	2,780	21		106		2
	500	2,500	42		190		2
	113	2,420	1	1	146	4	
	200	3,000	4	9	150 ¹	6	
	103	1,200	5	5	196 ¹	5	2
	354	7,060	10	33	529 ¹	10	2
	275	3,805	15	28	558 ¹	8	3
	31	250		30	305	8	
	200	3,500	3	31	504 ¹	8	1
	210	2,856	6	18	453 ¹	8	2
	682	12,675	16	2	226 ¹	7	
and 15 SVD } Brothers }					62		2
chaplain							
	150	4,250	6	83	220	4 ²	1
	125						
	17,238	162,663	621	563	6,752	130 ³	27

ce work and conducting religious instruction classes. ³This total includes: 56 Missionary Sisters Servants
2 Sisters of the Holy Family, 8 Franciscan Sisters of Milwaukee, 7 Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, 4
ouls.

SEMINARY NEWS

from
ST.
AUGUSTINE'S
SEMINARY
Bay Saint Louis
Mississippi



Hello, folks! Your old reliable chronicler was almost too late to hit this issue, but he made it. And, anyway, better late than never — no? But let me see what I have for you this time. . . . Oh, yes, let us begin with

Father Coogan's Visit

One sunny Tuesday morning in March, while we were lending diligent ears to the lectures of our professors, sudden word came that the Seminary was the host of a distinguished visitor who would address the entire student body in the school auditorium. This visitor was the Rev. Aloysius Coogan, Editor of the *Catholic Missions*, the national publication of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Once we were settled in the auditorium our guest was brought in and introduced to the assembled gathering by the Very Rev. Joseph Eckert, Provincial of the Southern Province of the Society of the Divine Word.

Father Coogan told us that he was touring the country in order to whip up mission interest in diocesan seminaries. The aim of his efforts is: educate the American people to

love and help the missions by first educating the future priests of America to do the same. In other words: make America mission-minded by making her priests mission-minded.

After his very absorbing talk, the Reverend visitor was publicly thanked by Father Provincial. Then the community withdrew to the front of the faculty building where a picture was taken of Father Coogan, the faculty and the major and minor seminarians.

Distinguished Editor Visitor

We were happy to welcome to the Seminary for a few hours the well-known Editor-in-Chief of *Catholic Action of the South*, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter M. H. Wynhoven. Being on the Gulf Coast for a few days, Monsignor Wynhoven visited the Seminary where he was cordially greeted and entertained by the Fathers of St. Augustine's faculty.

Another guest of the Seminary for a few fleeting hours was U. S. Navy Chaplain Williams, who was stationed temporarily at Algiers, La. Having a sort of vacation on his

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Still another welcome visitor to the Seminary is Chaplain McNulty of the United States Merchant Marine, who is at present stationed at nearby Henderson's Point.

Pictures

One night in spring found us looking at the screen in order to follow the interesting pictures shown there. They were mostly films dealing with the armed forces and tending to impart information to the civilian concerning his protectors on land, on sea, and in the air. They were all enjoyed immensely.

Another Aspirant

Another aspirant has appeared to take his place in our growing Brothers' community. This is Theodore Charles from Grand Coteau, La. There is yet room for many more to take their place beside him. At present there are three aspirants for the Brotherhood, and the Brother Novices number four.

Holy Week and Easter

As a proper culmination to the sorrowful season of Lent, the soul-inspiring events of the Redemption were reenacted during the penitential ceremonies of Holy Week and the joyful commemoration of Resurrection Day.

The environment of sorrowfulness because of the severe Agony of our Redeemer blended with the utterance of joy for His resurrection from the dead.

The ceremonies of the Passion at St. Augustine's Seminary were especially impressive. They began with Tenebrae on Wednesday afternoon and lasted till Holy Saturday morning. On this latter day, the Lenten season with its aspect of thoughtful sorrow yielded to the overflowing happiness of the Feast of the Resurrection.

After the Solemn High Mass on Easter morning, graced by the sweet-sounding efforts of the polyphonic choir, there was the usual "get together" with handshakes and best wishes flying in all directions. It was a happy day and we all enjoyed it very much.

May the choicest blessings of Jesus, the risen Savior, descend upon our kind friends and benefactors throughout the year!

PENTECOST NOVENA

June 4-12

in

St. Augustine's Seminary Chapel

for the intentions of
our friends and benefactors

CALL THE PRIEST

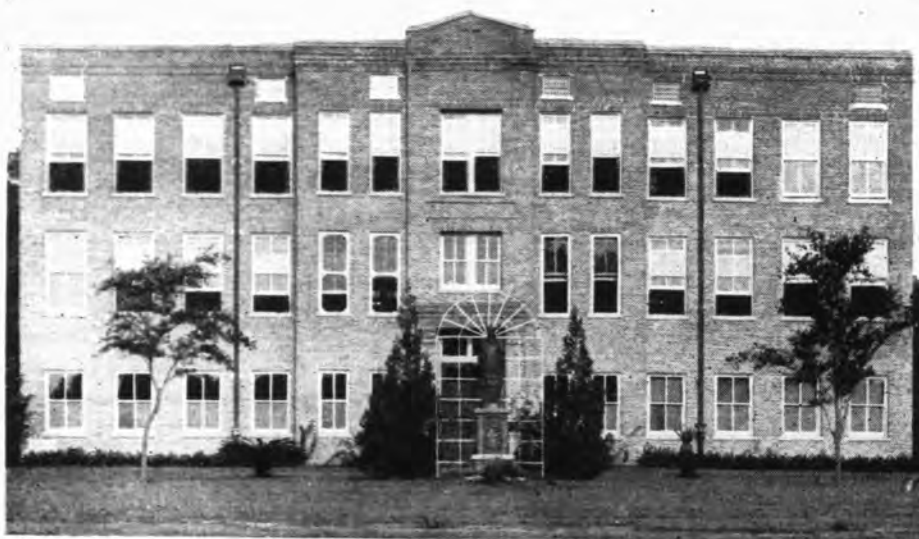
(Continued from page 131)

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JUNE -- JULY SAINTS

June 13 — Pentecost

Before His Ascension Christ charged His disciples "not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father." Today's feast commemorates the fulfillment of that promise, the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. Ever since that first Pentecost Sunday the Holy Spirit has guided, sanctified and protected the Church and will do so until the end of time. Sacred Scripture tells us

that to be a child of God we must be led by the Spirit. He usually manifests His will by the whisperings in your conscience. Ask for the grace to be docile and obedient to Him.



"Learn of Me because I am meek and humble of Heart!"

then, to see so many souls dying from spiritual hunger, especially since He, the Food of Life, is ever so anxious to feed and sustain them. Pray today to the Eucharistic King that He may be better known, loved and received by all Catholics.

July 2 — Sacred Heart

Our Divine Lord appeared to a seventeenth century Visitation nun, St. Margaret Mary, and said to her that it was His desire that devotion to His Sacred Heart be known and practiced by all. The Heart of Christ is a symbol of His divine love for us, a love that cannot be satisfied until it has received our heart. The morning offering whereby we consecrate ourselves to Him, the family consecration prayer and the excellent practice of receiving Communion on the first Friday of each month in reparation for all the sins committed against the Sacred Heart are splendid ways of proving our love for Him. Have you a picture of the Sacred Heart in your home? Today consecrate the entire family to Him.

June 20 — Trinity Sunday

Three Divine Persons in one and the same Divine Nature, infinite and equal to each other in all perfections, such in brief is the teaching of our faith on the most important and sublime of her doctrines — the Blessed Trinity. Not until Christ Himself revealed it was the existence of the Blessed Trinity clearly known by man. Every soul in the state of grace is the temple of this Triune God. Every soldier is expected to salute his commanding officer as a mark of respect and allegiance. By the Sign of the Cross the Catholic expresses belief, allegiance and devotion to all Three Persons of the Godhead. The early Christians made the Sign of the Cross at the beginning and end of almost all their duties. Make it devoutly and frequently.

June 24 — Corpus Christi

As a memorial of the redeeming act of love He was to perform, Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist the night before His crucifixion. This special feast which honors Christ present in the Eucharist dates from the 13th century. Just as the body must have food to live, so the soul must have spiritual nourishment (the Blessed Eucharist) that it may live. How sad it is,

July 26 — St. Anne

Tradition tells us that she was the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the last few centuries devotion to her has increased rapidly. Her hidden and silent life of sacrifice and patient trust in God is the model for all Christian mothers. The soul possessing humility and self-sacrifice is worth more than a million worlds as one saint puts it. Pray to St. Anne for an increase of missionary vocations.

◆
Have you performed your

◆ EASTER DUTY ◆

yet?

Trinity Sunday, June 20, is the last day of the Easter Season. Will God wait for you in vain?

Father Provincial Writes . . .



VERY REV. JOSEPH F. ECKERT, S.V.D.

Provincial of the Southern Province of the Society of the Divine Word

Another school year has come to its close at our St. Augustine's Seminary. To all outward appearances it has been a success. No untoward incident occurred to mar in any way the smooth running of the school routine or to throw any pall on the happy and ambitious student body. Only two students dropped out for lack of a vocation. An enviable record for any institution! Four students graduated from the high school and together with other graduates from our S.V. D. Eastern and Western Provinces will begin their Novitiate in September at St. Mary's Mission House, Techny, Illinois. St. Augustine's Seminary had every reason to give special thanks to Almighty God on the last school day.

The vacant places must be filled with new recruits in September if the Negro Mission Work is not to be hampered and turned into a failure. This year the outlook for many new students is not so bright. Even in normal times religious vocations

among the colored are limited in number, due to the small number of colored Catholics in this country and the baneful atmosphere of Neopaganism which our boys are forced to breathe. Though our Government generously grants deferments of, and exemptions from, active military service, yet the god of war will relentlessly claim his heavy toll.

Many a promising young man will choose to join the Armed Forces; others will be lured to well-paying defense jobs, or will be needed by their parents to work on the farms and help support a struggling family.

And yet the training of young men for the native priesthood must go on, even in time of war, and cannot brook any let-up, if the colored people are to be kept in the Faith or won over to our Religion. The other day while in Jacksonville, Fla., I picked up a copy of *THE NEW WORLD*, the official Catholic weekly of Chicago, which carries an in-

JUNE -- JULY SAINTS

June 13 — Pentecost

Before His Ascension Christ charged His disciples "not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father." Today's feast commemorates the fulfillment of that promise, the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. Ever since that first Pentecost Sunday the Holy Spirit has guided, sanctified and protected the Church and will do so until the end of time. Sacred Scripture tells us that to be a child of God we must be led by the Spirit. He usually manifests His will by the whisperings in your conscience. Ask for the grace to be docile and obedient to Him.



"Learn of Me because I am meek and humble of Heart!"

then, to see so many souls dying from spiritual hunger, especially since He, the Food of Life, is ever so anxious to feed and sustain them. Pray today to the Eucharistic King that He may be better known, loved and received by all Catholics.

July 2 — Sacred Heart

Our Divine Lord appeared to a seventeenth century Visitation nun, St. Margaret Mary, and said to her that it was His desire that devotion to His Sacred Heart be known and practiced by all. The Heart of Christ is a symbol of His divine love for us, a love that cannot be satisfied until it has received our heart. The morning offering whereby we consecrate ourselves to Him, the family consecration prayer and the excellent practice of receiving Communion on the first Friday of each month in reparation for all the sins committed against the Sacred Heart are splendid ways of proving our love for Him. Have you a picture of the Sacred Heart in your home? Today consecrate the entire family to Him.

June 20 — Trinity Sunday

Three Divine Persons in one and the same Divine Nature, infinite and equal to each other in all perfections, such in brief is the teaching of our faith on the most important and sublime of her doctrines — the Blessed Trinity. Not until Christ Himself revealed it was the existence of the Blessed Trinity clearly known by man. Every soul in the state of grace is the temple of this Triune God. Every soldier is expected to salute his commanding officer as a mark of respect and allegiance. By the Sign of the Cross the Catholic expresses belief, allegiance and devotion to all Three Persons of the Godhead. The early Christians made the Sign of the Cross at the beginning and end of almost all their duties. Make it devoutly and frequently.

July 26 — St. Anne

Tradition tells us that she was the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the last few centuries devotion to her has increased rapidly. Her hidden and silent life of sacrifice and patient trust in God is the model for all Christian mothers. The soul possessing humility and self-sacrifice is worth more than a million worlds as one saint puts it. Pray to St. Anne for an increase of missionary vocations.

June 24 — Corpus Christi

As a memorial of the redeeming act of love He was to perform, Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist the night before His crucifixion. This special feast which honors Christ present in the Eucharist dates from the 13th century. Just as the body must have food to live, so the soul must have spiritual nourishment (the Blessed Eucharist) that it may live. How sad it is,

◆ Have you performed your

◆ EASTER DUTY ◆

yet?

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ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

teresting column, "Along the Way," written by Father Daniel Lord, the well-known and dynamic Jesuit leader of our Catholic Youth and a tireless promoter of the Sodality. In that particular issue Father Lord makes the following statement:

"Now that we are looking forward to the peace that follows victory, we can afford to be a little more practical about it all. For instance, there are the six million Negroes in the country who have no religion — compared with 300,000 Colored Catholics. And while we must convert foreign lands, we can do well with a start right at home.

"St. Augustine's Seminary in Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi, has pioneered in the training of colored boys for the priesthood. The war has hit them as it has hit other apostolic enterprises. But *we must have colored priests for the colored harvest*; and if you really want to see one sector of America won for the peace of Christ, you will dig down into the billfold and send to the Techny Fathers at work there.

"Let's not be angry with communistic activity among the colored if we haven't done something to win the Negroes to the Catholic Faith." *The New World*, April 9, 1943.

We cordially thank good Father Lord for these encouraging words and for the appeal in behalf of St. Augustine's Seminary. "*We must have colored priests for the colored harvest.*" Those who are actively engaged in Negro Mission Work can appreciate and evaluate only too keenly the truth of this statement, which echoes so clearly the words of the late Popes, who have written

about the necessity of the Native Clergy everywhere, if the Mission Work of the Church is to be successful.

I take this opportunity to thank the good priests and Sisters in charge of colored mission schools for the cooperation they have given our Seminary in cultivating religious vocations and sending good and worthy boys to St. Augustine's Seminary. Ultimately the Negro Missions will be benefited by their apostolic work in the classroom. Indeed, as long as we have zealous priests and Sisters in our mission schools who foster by words, prayers and sacrifices religious vocations, we have no reason to feel despondent. Even in this time of war, they will see to it that many new students will enter our Seminary in fall.

FATHER ECKERT, S.V. D.

Help Our Mission Work With

An Annuity

Give us a sum of money on which we will pay you 5%—7% annual interest as long as you live. After death the principal will be used for the missionary purposes of the Society of the Divine Word, especially for the education of colored students for the Priesthood.

For information write to the

REV. FATHER DIRECTOR
ANNUITY PLAN
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Send for a free copy of our booklet:

"HOW TO INVEST"

DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES

THE WORLD OVER

The Society of the Divine Word (S.V. D.=Societas Verbi Divini) was founded in Steyl, Holland, in 1875, by a saintly priest, the Reverend Arnold Janssen († Jan. 15, 1909). It is primarily a Missionary Congregation of Priests and Brothers who work side by side for the propagation of the Faith, especially for the conversion of pagan peoples.

The Society maintains over 40 mission colleges and seminaries which are widely dispersed in European countries, the United States, South America, China and Philippine Islands. In these seminaries students of the Society are trained for the missionary priesthood.

The American Seminaries are located at St. Mary's Mission House, Techny, Illinois; Sacred Heart Mission House, Girard, Pa.; St. Francis Xavier's Mission House, Miramar, Island Creek, Mass.; St. Paul's Mission House, Epworth, Dubuque Co., Iowa; Holy Ghost Mission House, East Troy, Wisconsin; St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi; St. Michael's Mission House, Conesus, N. Y.; St. Joseph's Mission House, Bordentown, N. J.

The Personnel of the Society in January, 1943, consisted of 13 Bishops, 7 Prefects Apostolic, 1817 priests, 755 seminarians, 548 clerical novices, 2300 college students, 1746 Brothers, 169 Brother novices, 41 Brother postulants, 123 Brother aspirants — over 7500 persons in all.

The Catholic University of Peking, China, several seminaries for the education of the secular clergy in South America and in the Philip-

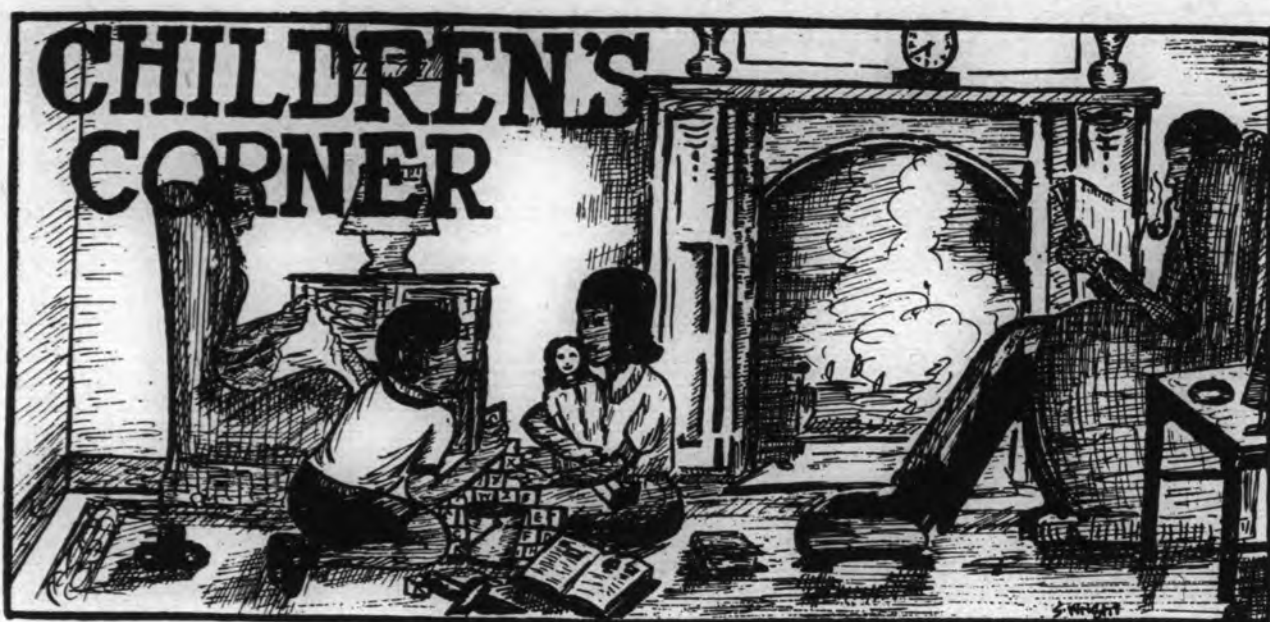
pine Islands, are conducted by Divine Word Missionaries.

In our pagan mission fields our Fathers have charge of about 500,000 Christians, over 150,000 catechumens, and some 550 schools aggregating 35,000 pupils. The total heathen population of their mission territories amounts to about 50,000,000. In North and South America, taken jointly, the priests of the Society have the spiritual care of more than 500,000 Catholics: among these there are more than 17,000 Negroes.

The Society of the Divine Word is assisted in its missionary efforts by the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters, Servants of the Holy Ghost, whose American Provincial House is located at Techny, Illinois. They number about 3,700 professed Sisters who labor in all the mission districts of the Society of the Divine Word, devoting their efforts to the conversion of the women, to the education of children, and to hospital and dispensary work.

Another community of Sisters closely linked with the Society of the Divine Word is the Congregation of the Servants of the Holy Ghost of Perpetual Adoration. They lead a contemplative life and consider it to be their principal task to pray day and night before the Blessed Sacrament for the needs of the Church, in particular for the propagation of the faith and for the sanctification of the priesthood. Their community numbers at present over 500 Sisters.

Both Congregations of Sisters were established by the Founder of the Society of the Divine Word.



My dear Boys and Girls:

I hope that all of you made good marks in your final examinations and on your report cards. You have studied hard (or haven't you?) during the past school year, so during vacation have a good rest from school. **BUT DO NOT TAKE A REST FROM CHURCH!** You must go to church just as regularly every Sunday during the summer time as you did during the school year.

Those of you who have finished high school or even grammar school, have you made up your mind what you want to be when you grow up? Some of you have told me that you want to give your whole life to the dear Lord as a priest, a Brother or a Sister. Well, if you still feel that way, why not write for an application blank? If you do not know where to write, then, Boys, read page 121 of this magazine, and, Girls, read page 144. That might give some of you an idea.

But, first, before making any definite decision, pray it over well, talk it over with your mother and father and with your pastor. Then decide! I'll be praying for you.

MY MAIL BAG

Dear Father Howard: How are you? We are all doing fine. I certainly was proud of your little visit to our school. We all enjoyed the pictures. We are very sorry that you could not stay any longer. I wish that you could come back soon again and give us a mission.

I am very busy going to school. I am getting along fine in school. I am taking

piano lessons this year and am doing nice in it. I will pray for you.

Geraldine Therese Chambers, age 11
Rosa, La.

I, too, enjoyed my little visit to your school, Geraldine. Maybe I shall get back sometime. Meanwhile, keep on being "very busy going to school"; you will not be sorry.

Dear Father Howard: We are indeed very happy that seven more people, who have been taking instructions under Father Peter DeBoer, have been baptized and given the privilege of belonging to the True Church. We are not happy because we may gain something out of this, but we are happy because they have received the grace of God and can amend their life before it is too late.

We have holy water fountains in church and a new container for baptizing. Our new church is everything one can wish for, unless he wants it made of gold and silver, and that would be impossible.

We are getting a basement under our school. We lost one of our boys from school because he went to the Navy, but we are praying for him as well as for you.

I am going to offer up our Wednesday Mass for you special. We are still praying for you to get a chance to come again and see the children and people here. Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rose Jane Hardy
623 Anson Street
Yazoo City, Miss.

Thanks for the Mass and the prayers, Rose Jane; I am not forgetting you in my prayers either.

Dear Father Howard: I am very sorry you couldn't stay longer when you came to our school. I was glad to see the pictures you

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

showed; they were beautiful. I won one of those books you had.

I am in the 8th grade. I am pretty good at my studies, but back in Algebra. I hope you will hurry and come back and see us again.

We are going to have a program for the closing of school. I am in it if God spares us and nothing don't happen.

I work on a farm. I pick cotton and hoe corn. I have a brother in the Army. I pray for him to come back and live with us again. I made it a penance to go to Mass on weekdays in Lent. Father Reichmeyer is well and doing fine.

I would like to receive the ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER regularly, but I have to pay high to go to school.

I hope you will come to see us soon again. Sincerely yours in Jesus Christ,

Mary Payne, Grade 8
Immaculate Conception School
LeBeau, La.

That is a fine letter, Mary. I, too, will ask the Lord that your brother may come back home safe. I'll see what can be done about your receiving the MESSENGER.

Dear Father Howard: Just a few compliments to you in regard to the good ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER. I have been receiving the MESSENGER about four months, and I think that it is a good book for colored Catholic boys and girls to read. The stories are very interesting and newsy.

Since I have been receiving the MESSENGER I have found out how some Colored Missions were started, and I hope I'll continue to receive the MESSENGER and learn more about the Colored Missions. From a lover of the Sacred Heart,

Bertha Chastang
Route 1, Box 59
Mount Vernon, Ala.

Thanks for the compliments, Bertha; and while you are learning about the Colored Missions don't forget to pray for them too.

MISSION-GRAPH CONTEST

Well, we have another winning Mission-graph for this month, picked out of several other good Mission-graphs. Here it is:

St. Francis' Mission

It is really a wonder how the St. Francis' Mission in Yazoo City, Miss., has grown. In 1940 you could see only a large hill. In April, 1940, the hill was graded down, then the builders started the foundation of the school.

It took about one month to complete the school. It consisted of four rooms and a temporary church. Later two more rooms were added. This year there are 8 grades. There are only 24 Catholic children out of an enrollment of 305 in St. Francis' School.

Today on the hill there are a school, church and Sisters' convent. Anyone who saw the hill about four years ago would really be surprised to see it now. It was through no one but God that all this was done. Of course financial help was necessary. Father DeBoer has worked very hard to collect the money to get our church.

We appreciate so much having our nice school and church. Father gives us instructions every day. We realize more every day how little we know about God.

Dear Readers, won't you pray for us that we may have a high school next year so we won't have to return to a public school? None of us would like to do that.

Madeline Travis, age 15
213 Barksdale Street
Yazoo City, Miss.
(St. Francis' School)

Madeline wins a whole year's FREE subscription to the MESSENGER for this Mission-graph. Who will be the next winner?

GOOD MOVIE CLUB

If you go to the movies, go to see only Class A movies. Here are a few:

Bad Man of the Hills
Billy the Kid's Smoking Guns
Boothill Bandits
Born to Sing
Bride of Buddha
Ballerina
Barefoot Boy
Billy the Kid Returns
California Frontier
Campus Confessions
Carefree
Charlie Chan in Honolulu
Dawn Patrol
Down in "Arkansaw"
Durango Valley Raiders
Duke of West Point

Have a good vacation. Go to Holy Communion frequently, and don't forget to pray for the conversion of the 13,000,000 Negro men, women and children in America. And say a little prayer for me now and then during the summer.

FATHER HOWARD, S.V. D.
Bay Saint Louis, Miss.



With our SVD Fathers on the Colored Missions

Two From One

By the simple expedient of dividing one of the larger rooms in half with a wooden partition another classroom has been added to the yet-too-small Notre Dame School in St. Martinville, La. The school now has five teachers — 2 Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and 3 lay teachers — and 286 pupils.

"Keeping 'Em Going"

That ardent supporter of the American railroads, Father Clarence Howard, has been working hard on the missions to "keep 'em going" spiritually. From March 14 to March 21, Father Howard preached a mission in St. Mary's Church, Vicksburg, Miss. St. Mary's is in charge of the Divine Word Fathers, Father Francis Tetzlaff being the pastor and Father Robert O'Leary his assistant.

During the week of April 4-11, Father Howard gave a mission to non-Catholics in Mother of Mercy Church, Houston, Texas. Father Joseph Lally, S.S.J., the pastor, "warned" his parishioners to *stay away* from the mission, telling them that if any Catholic did come, he would not be admitted unless he had at least one non-Catholic with him. It worked! The church and side chapel were packed with Catholics and non-Catholics.

During the first part of Holy Week, April 19-21, Father Howard conducted a Retreat for the students

of Xavier High School in New Orleans, La. Mass, the Way of the Cross and Benediction were held each day in Blessed Sacrament Parish Church, while the conferences were held in Xavier Auditorium. On the first two mornings there was a *Missa Recitata*, and it was an inspiring sight to see the church crowded with high-school boys and girls and to hear them join in the Latin prayers and responses of the Mass. 520 students attended the Retreat, and among them a few non-Catholic students. Xavier High School is conducted by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament as a preparatory school for Xavier University, also conducted by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

Of course, Father Howard did not forget about his vocational campaign, so in between missions he visited the following schools, giving a talk on religious vocations and showing the Seminary movie: Sacred Heart School, Greenville, Miss.; Holy Ghost School, Jackson, Miss.; St. Joseph's School, Meridian, Miss.; St. Mary's School, Vicksburg, Miss.; and St. Francis' School, Yazoo City, Miss.

BE A GOOD AMERICAN

**BUY
U. S. STAMPS AND
BONDS**

AFTER THE BATTLE

ARTHUR C. WINTERS, S.V. D.

There is no strife in the realm of the dead,
No glare of eye in hostile eye,
No farewell messages of lead
That send the Reaper sweeping by.
But there the angry glance is dulled;
Tensed hands have met the grip of Fate;
And humble soldier-hearts are culled
To dwell within some other Gate.

There is no battle slogan there,
No fearsome cry of sudden pain,
Nor shrieks of bodily despair
The tortured heart cannot restrain.
But all is placid, all is still
Within the kingdom of the dead;
No step disturbs the flowered hill,
No moans upon the quiet tread.
There is no woe in the realm of the dead,
No bullet-drawing breast to keep,
No anguished brain to augur dread,

No blood-rimmed eye to battle sleep.
But free from fleshly bonds, and free
From purposes their time possessed,
Their realm is wide eternity
Deep in the other world of rest.

NOVENA TO OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

Held at St. Augustine's Seminary — July 1-9

Intention: Reverence For The Most Precious Blood

Dear Friends:

Over nineteen hundred years ago, when Pilate washed his hands and proclaimed that he was "innocent of the blood of this just Man; look you to it," the Jews cried out: "His Blood be upon us and upon our children!" Amid such fearful words, Jesus was delivered to a most shameful death.

These words mean this: "We take upon ourselves the full responsibility of this bloody execution, provided the hated Galilean be put to death. Even if the curse of God come upon us on account of it, let happen what will!" And they added, "Upon our children also may this curse be."

These words contain at least a twofold malice. First, an astounding provocation of God's vengeance; secondly, a most wicked purpose; namely, to induce Pilate to deliver

Jesus to death.

This is the month of the Most Precious Blood. We, too, in the words of the Jews cry out: "His Blood be upon us and upon our children," but we do not say it with an evil intent, but to ask to let flow upon us and upon posterity the Most Precious Blood that Christ shed for us on Calvary for our salvation. We ask that in that Most Precious stream of Blood, our hearts may be washed of sin which gives rise to both interior and exterior strife and warfare, and leads to eternal punishment.

O MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP,
AID US TO PAY DUE HOMAGE TO
THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JE-
SUS. THY SON, THAT WE MAY MER-
IT TO BE CLEANSED THEREIN OF
OUR FAULTS. AMEN.

Join us in this Novena. Pray together with us during these nine days. Send in your intentions and they will be included in the prayers of the Fathers, Seminarians, Brothers and Students.

Mail your intentions to

ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY, BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI

Girls

and Young Ladies

— do you feel that you have a vocation to the Religious Life? Would you like to serve God in an especial manner as a Sister, a virgin Spouse of Christ? If so —

and if you are at least 15 years of age and have finished grade school or high school or college

THERE IS A PLACE IN THE CONVENT FOR YOU !

THINK about it, PRAY over it, then WRITE to one of the following Communities of Sisters:

OBLATE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE

501 E. Chase St.
Baltimore, Md.

HANDMAIDS OF THE MOST PURE HEART OF MARY

8 East 131st St.
New York, N.Y.

SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY

717 Orleans St.
New Orleans, La.





Enrollment in the

MISSION MASS LEAGUE

gives you a chance to cooperate in the mission work of the Society of the Divine Word by means of prayer, almsgiving and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.



Certificate in colors for perpetual members

SPIRITUAL ADVANTAGES: Members share 1) in the 730 Holy Masses said annually for the intentions of the living members and in the 360 Masses said annually for the deceased members; 2) in the good works of the Fathers, Brothers and Seminarians of the Society of the Divine Word; and 3) in various indulgences.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP — \$1.00

PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP — \$10.00

ENROLL YOUR SON, HUSBAND, OR BROTHER WHO IS SERVING IN
THE ARMED FORCES OF HIS COUNTRY

For further information write to

THE REVEREND DIRECTOR
Mission Mass League

St. Augustine's Seminary

BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

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one-year subscriptions to any **TWO** persons in the Armed Forces of our country for only \$1.00.

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one-year subscriptions to any TWO persons in the Armed Forces of our country for only \$1.00.

**For GOD
and for COUNTRY!**

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**Attention,
Mr. and Mrs. America —**



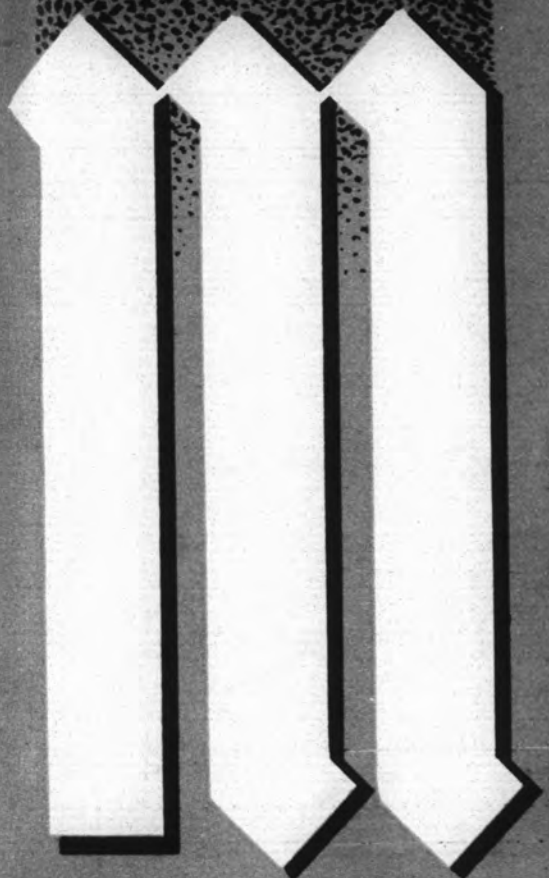
- ◆ You are probably earning more money now than you have ever earned before. It would be wise for you to save some of it for the time when wages will not be so high.
- ◆ A good way to save those extra dollars and cents for the future is to invest them in United States War Stamps and Bonds. You help your country's war effort and provide for your own future.
- ◆ A good way to practice charity during this war is to give United States War Stamps and Bonds to the missions and the missionaries and to the religious institutions which train and educate these missionaries. You place your money in the service of God and Country.

St. Augustine's Seminary
Bay Saint Louis, Miss.

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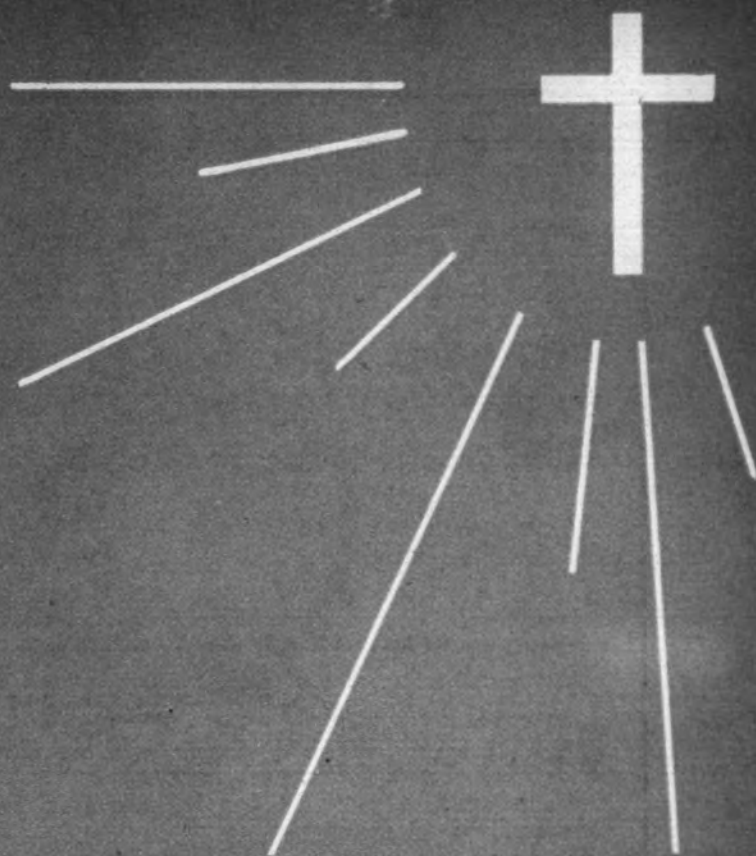
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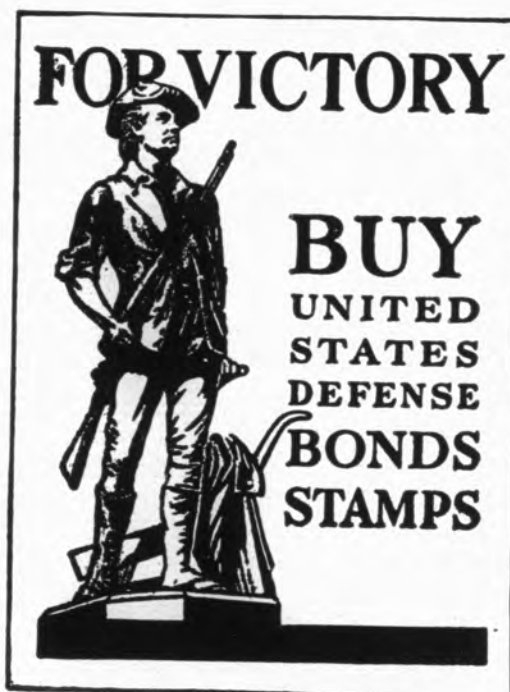


LABORERS IN THE COLORED MISSIONS

For GOD
and for COUNTRY

★ ★ ★

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SEPTEMBER, 1943

Postmaster: See inside cover



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BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

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MESSENGER

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEGRO CLERGY

A Catholic Negro magazine, published monthly, except July, at Techny, Illinois, by St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Subscription \$1.00 a year. Proceeds are used for the education of colored students for the priesthood.

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Editor: CLARENCE J. HOWARD, S.V.D.
ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

Volume XXI

SEPTEMBER, 1943

Number 7

Editorial: **GOOD SAMARITAN SUNDAY**

Here in Mississippi there is a movement afoot which we hope will eventually spread to every part of the United States. A small group of priests propose to have one Sunday a year — the 12th Sunday after Pentecost — designated as Good Samaritan Sunday, a day on which a concentrated attack against uncharitableness and injustice existing between various groups would be made by means of the pulpit, the press and the radio.

Rev. Walter Mulroney, S.S.J., originator of the plan and pastor of Holy Family Church, 16 Orange Ave., Natchez, Miss., says: "The target of this program is uncharitableness, or undemocratic Jimcrowism, whether it applies to black Americans, Chinese, French, Irish, or any other group within the confines of our democracy. The existence of such conditions is too evident to need proof.

"It is the hope and confident expectation of the proponents of this plan that a concentrated national emphasis one day each year will do much to inculcate the fundamental ideals of Christian Charity and move those who, consciously or otherwise,

are guilty of failure in any way in Christian Charity toward their fellow countrymen to realize their mistake. Further, we believe it will lead them to embrace whatever readjustments are necessary in their lives that this great virtue, so efficiently promulgated by Christ and His Church that it changed all of civilization in the first centuries of the Christian Era, may flourish more ardently and so result in greater honor and glory given to God as also a closer approach to the ideals of American Democracy.

"Never, in the minds of the authors, was a time more propitious for such a program to be launched. On every side discussions of the Atlantic Charter and of World Peace after Victory are preparing the minds of the general public to be receptive to such thoughts and actions as this program would place before them. Naturally it is the Church's right and duty to be the instigator and activator of such an efficient program as it is prayerfully hoped this will be."

It is planned to have the first celebration of Good Samaritan Sunday this year on September 5. The

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Gospel for this Sunday (the Parable of the Good Samaritan, taken from Luke 10:25-37) very appropriately lends itself to a sermon along the lines proposed by the initiators of this movement.

We feel that this is the right approach to the problem of race rela-

tions, and we hope that the plan "clicks." After all, people cannot be *legislated* out of their prejudices, but they can be educated and trained and attracted by the clear Example of the just and charitable Christ being held before their eyes and applied to their daily lives.

A COMMON AMERICAN BOY

ARTHUR C. WINTERS, S.V. D.

A common American boy,
With a dash of the imp and the saint,
A heart overflowing with joy,
But dry of the spirit of plaint;
He decided one bright happy day
(And with each day his gladness increased)
That he would leave home — go away
And study to be a good priest!

Oh, it rained on the day he set out,
And the train was filled up to the door,
But he entered (he wasn't so stout)
And obtained standing room on the floor.
He had spirit (the journey was warm,
Yet he didn't mind that in the least);
He had come to take heaven by storm,
This smiling some-day-to-be priest.

Well, he studied down long years of months,
And he struggled with book and with pen;
(Once the students nicknamed him "the Dunce,"
He but laughed at the sallies of men.)
And when prizes were being passed out,
Though in nothing else was he a whiz,
Application's and — without a doubt —
Perseverance's prizes were his.

A common American lad,
I saw him halfway to the top;
And he said in a way bright and glad,
That nothing would cause him to stop.
In his heart there was resting a hope
That was friend of all courage and mirth;
For he said: "Give a boy enough rope,
He will climb up to heaven from earth."

A common — no! he is not such!
He is added-to, that you can say;
For with wise and with masterly touch,
Christ has raised him above common clay.
There's a spirit of grace in his eyes,
There's a mark — the word "Friend" — on his soul.
And his heart gathers close the dear prize
That he won — the Priesthood, his goal!

SEMINARIANS INCREASING



These four seminarians have just completed a two-year novitiate course at St. Mary's Mission House, Techny, Ill., where they made their first Profession as members of the Society of the Divine Word on June 21. They have returned to St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Miss., for their philosophical and theological courses. (Left to right): Fraters Mark Figaro, S.V.D., Carlos Lewis, S.V.D., Vernon Dauphin, S.V.D., and Curtis Washington, S.V.D. BELOW are this year's graduates of St. Augustine's Preparatory Seminary. They are now at Techny as novices and will remain there for 4 years. (Right to left): Verlin LeDoux, Lake Charles, La.; Gerald Lewis, Panama Canal Zone; Thaddeus Boucree, New Orleans, La.; and Kenneth Watson, Panama Canal Zone



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The recently opened Holy Family Hospital in Ensley, Alabama

Another Catholic Hospital for Negroes

CLARENCE J. HOWARD, S.V. D.

- Holy Family Hospital in Ensley, Alabama
- Conducted by Sisters of Charity of Nazareth

With the opening of Holy Family Hospital in Ensley, Alabama, this year, there are now five Catholic hospitals in the United States devoted exclusively to the care of Negro patients. Three of these hospitals are in Alabama: Martin de Porres Maternity Hospital in Mobile, Holy Ghost Home for Incurables in Marbury, and Holy Family Hospital in Ensley. The others are St. Mary's Hospital in St. Louis, Mo., and Holy Cross Hospital in Austin, Texas.

In 1938 the Passionist Fathers of the Western Province began a Colored Mission in Ensley, which is a part of the city of Birmingham. They opened a church, a school, and later a small clinic. In 1941 the Passionists requested the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, whose Mother-

house is in Nazareth, Ky., to take charge of the clinic. The Sisters arrived on February 11, 1941. When they visited the sick in their poor homes, saw the ravages of neglected diseases, and learned that there are perhaps 150,000 colored people in the Birmingham area, they realized that here was a desperate need for a hospital in which these poor people could be cared for.

Meanwhile, the Sisters carried on their work in the clinic, treating hundreds of cases each month. During their first year at Holy Family Mission the Sisters noticed that so many of the children missed school most of the winter because of sore throats. The Sisters investigated and found that tonsils were the cause of the trouble in most cases. Something had to be done. The

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

free services of two generous doctors were secured and each Thursday morning, after the warm weather had set in, four of the school children had their tonsils removed. The little patients were cared for very tenderly in the clubroom adjoining the clinic where four small canvas cots had been set up temporarily.

By the following year plans had been completed for the building of a fifty-bed modern hospital on property already acquired just across the street from the Holy Family Mission Church. But then came the Government "freeze" of building materials, and the hoped-for and much-needed hospital seemed to be doomed, at least for the time being.

But the brave Sisters of Charity did not give up. They alone, perhaps, understood just how urgently a hospital was needed, so they set to work to solve their problem in their own way.

With the help of generous friends they were able to purchase three small one-story frame houses in the fall of 1942. These were moved onto the Sisters' property and joined together. The carpenters, plumbers, electricians and painters toiled on through the winter months using what material they could get. Then the Sisters took over and put on the finishing touches.

By March, 1943, Holy Family Hospital was ready for occupancy. On April 1 it was dedicated.

The hospital has 16 beds. A part of the hospital is used as a clinic where over 200 people visit the doctor each month, besides the many who come daily for medicines and dressings. Four Sisters are stationed at the hospital.

The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth were founded as a religious community in 1812 in the State of Kentucky. Today they number over



HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL IN THE PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTION

The superior, Sister Alice Martha, is showing visitors around. The army chaplain talking to the children is Father Walter Bowman, S.V.D., only Negro Catholic chaplain in the Armed Forces at present. The other two priests are Father Michael Caswell, C.P., pastor of Holy Family Church, and Father Edward Lawlor, S.S.J., assistant pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Birmingham



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13,000 Sisters who conduct schools, hospitals and orphanages in four Archdioceses and eight Dioceses in this country.

Besides Holy Family Hospital, the Sisters conduct a senior high school, a junior high school and six grade schools for Negro children, with a total enrollment of 660 pupils. The schools are located as follows:

Louisville, Ky.:

St. Augustine's Grade and High School; 6 Sisters, 203 pupils.

Bardstown, Ky.:

St. Monica's School; 2 Sisters, 64 pupils.

Owensboro, Ky.:

Blessed Mother School; 2 Sisters, 35 pupils.

Helena, Ark.:

St. Cyprian's School; 2 Sisters, 40 pupils.

Morganza, Md.:

Colored Catholic School; 2 Sisters, 98 pupils.

Memphis, Tenn.:

St. Anthony's Grade and Jun-

(Continued on page 152)



ABLE MUSICIANS: These members of the combined junior and senior bands of St. Mary's Academy, New Orleans, La., receive a thorough musical training while attending the Academy. Their band is very popular and much in demand for concerts, parades, field days, etc. Under the able tutelage of Professor Wilcox, the director, and Mother Mary Borgia, the band has won several prizes. St. Mary's Academy is a boarding school for girls in grammar school and high school. It is conducted by the Sisters of the Holy Family, a community of colored nuns. The Academy has an enrollment of over 400 boarders and day pupils. There were 45 high school graduates last June



SVD Mission Schools Graduate 369



GRADUATES OF 1943 — ST. NICHOLAS' SCHOOL, St. Louis, Missouri

In spite of the difficulties occasioned by our all-out war, the Negro Mission schools of the Society of the Divine Word are continuing their important task of educating, both intellectually and spiritually, the thousands of little ones entrusted to their care. Fifty-six Missionary Sisters of the Holy Ghost, 41 Blessed Sacrament Sisters, 12 Holy Family Sisters, 8 Franciscan Sisters, 7 Precious Blood Sisters and 26 lay teachers were kept busy with the almost 7,000 pupils enrolled in the schools attached to the Colored Missions of the Divine Word Fathers in the United States. As a result there were 369 graduates in June, of whom 257 were Catholics.

But that the armed forces and the war industries had taken their toll from among the students in our mission schools was evident, especially

in the number of high school graduates — 90 this year as compared with 114 high school graduates last year. There were 279 graduates from the grammar schools this year.

St. Elizabeth's School, Chicago, Ill., had the largest number of graduates this year: 58 from grammar school and 21 from high school — total 79.

Holy Ghost School, Jackson, Miss., retained its second place again this year with 42 graduates: 30 from grammar school and 12 from high school.

St. Anselm's School, Chicago, Ill., took third place with 41 grammar school graduates, and St. Mary's School, Vicksburg, Miss., settled into fourth place with 32 graduates: 22 from the eighth grade and 10 from high school.

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The other schools rank as follows: Holy Rosary Institute, Lafayette, La. — grammar school 14, high school 16; Sacred Heart School, Greenville, Miss. — grammar school 15, high school 10; St. Rose's School, Bay Saint Louis, Miss. — grammar school 12, high school 11; St. Joseph's School, Meridian, Miss. — grammar school 14, high school 9; St. Francis' School, Yazoo City, Miss. — grammar school 22; St. Nicholas' School, St. Louis, Mo. — grammar school 20; Notre Dame School, St. Martinville, La. — grammar school 13; St. Peter's School, Pine Bluff, Ark. — grammar school 7, high school 1; Blessed Martin's School, Davant, La. — grammar school 5; St. Bartholomew's School, Little Rock, Ark. — grammar school 3; and St. Augustine's School, North Little Rock, Ark. — grammar school 3.

Another Catholic Hospital for Negroes

(Continued from page 150)

ior High School; 4 Sisters, 220 pupils.

This gives a total of 22 Sisters of Charity of Nazareth engaged in the work of the Colored Missions.

As soon as possible after the war, the Sisters hope to build a larger hospital in Ensley, together with an approved School of Nursing for colored girls. They hope also to be able to offer accredited Internships at Holy Family Hospital to colored graduates of Class A Medical Schools. But for the duration, the present small Holy Family Hospital must serve, and *will* serve as best it can, the urgent hospitalization needs of the 150,000 Negroes of the Birmingham area in Alabama.



VICTORY GARDENING



PUPILS AT ST. FRANCIS' SCHOOL, YAZOO CITY, MISS., PLANTED A VICTORY Garden in the spring. A couple of acres of the school campus were plowed up, and each child had his own row, his proprietorship being indicated by a stick with his name on it stuck proudly into the ground at the beginning of the row. During vacation time the pupils came regularly to look after their garden. Here they are seen harvesting a fine crop of potatoes

Northeastern Clergy Conference on Negro Welfare

- Catholic Bishop and Priests of Northeast
- Pass Resolution Against Discrimination in Armed Forces

At a meeting of the Northeastern Clergy Conference on Negro Welfare, held on May 29 in Asbury Park, New Jersey, the following was adopted:

The Clergy Conference on Negro Welfare is composed of Catholic priests, most of whom have charge of congregations made up of large numbers of Negro parishioners. From our close association with this minority group we are only too familiar with the injustices inflicted on those of our parishioners who have put on the uniform of the various branches of the Armed Services, to contribute to the defense of this Democracy.

Clearly our democratic ideals are worth defending — and they are worth carrying out in practice. Moreover, democratic ideals must be defended by democratic means.

The Selective Service Act of 1940 guarantees, in theory, the absence of racial discrimination from our Armed Forces. Since this guarantee has been flagrantly violated, we, as Catholic priests of the Clergy Conference on Negro Welfare call upon the President of the United States, the Secretary of War, and Secretary of the Navy, to take whatever steps may be necessary to insure to all Negroes in the services the actual elimination of all forms of racial discrimination from all branches of the "Services."

We re-echo the justifiable indignation of our thousands of parishioners and expressly protest:

1. Against the sectional prejudice so evident at Camp Stewart, Georgia, and Drew Field, Florida.
2. Against the "Jim-Crowism" prevalent in these and in numerous other camps throughout the land.
3. Against the rampant injustices of allowing many restaurateurs to refuse food and service to Negro soldiers and sailors.

As priests concerned with the spiritual and material welfare of the Negro, we protest against these discriminatory practices because we have concrete evidence that the toleration of such practices is poisoning the patriotism of our parishioners.

Even now our boys hate to face their local Draft Boards — they are not afraid to fight — but they know that anti-Negro discrimination is altogether too prevalent in all branches of the service.

SIGNERS OF THE RESOLUTION

Rev. Cornelius J. Ahern, Rector, St. Columba's Church, Newark, N. J.; Rev. James J. Asip, St. Peter Claver's Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Rev. Thomas F. Brennan, Queen of the Angels Church, Orange, N. J.; Rev. John J. Buys, S.V. D., Pastor, St. Peter Claver's Church, Asbury Park, N. J.; Rev. Raymond J. Campion, Pastor, St. Peter Claver's Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Rev. Edward J. Curran, LL.D., Rector, St.

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Rev. Cornelius J. Ahern, Rector, St. Columba's Church, Newark, N. J.; Rev. James J. Asip, St. Peter Claver's Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Rev. Thomas F. Brennan, Queen of the Angels Church, Orange, N. J.; Rev. John J. Buys, S.V. D., Pastor, St. Peter Claver's Church, Asbury Park, N. J.; Rev. Raymond J. Champion, Pastor, St. Peter Claver's Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Rev. Edward J. Curran, LL.D., Rector, St.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

David's Church, Willow Grove, Pa.; Rev. Lambert Dunne, O.S.B., St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception, Newark, N. J.; Rev. Joseph P. Fagan, Church of Christ the King, Jersey City, N. J.; Rev. John C. Farrell, Pastor, Church of the Holy Spirit, Asbury Park, N. J.; Rev. Joseph Ford, S.V. D., Rector Our Lady of the Divine Shepherd, Trenton, N. J.; Rev. Peter L. Gerety, St. John the Evangelist Church, New Haven, Conn.; Rev. James M. Gillis, C.S.P., Editor, "The Catholic World," New York; The Most Rev. William A. Griffin, D.D., Bishop of Trenton, Trenton, N. J.; Rev. William J. Gunville, C.M., Rector, St. Catherine of Siena, Germantown, Pa.; Rev. Frederick J. Hoeger, C.S.Sp., Superior, Holy

Ghost Missionary College, Pa.; Rev. Francis B. Humel, S.V. D., Provincial, Society of the Divine Word, Girard, Pa.; Rev. Emil F. Kapusta, St. Thomas Church, New York; Rev. John LaFarge, S.J., Executive Editor, "America," New York City; Rev. Joseph T. Malone, Chaplain, Medical Centre Hospital, Jersey City, N. J.; Rev. Emmett A. Monihan, Secretary to the Bishop of Trenton, Trenton, N. J.; Rev. Thomas Nolan, Asbury Park, N. J.; Rev. David J. Price, Queen of the Angels Church, Orange, N. J.; Rt. Rev. Thomas U. Reilly, Vicar-General of the Trenton Diocese, Trenton, N. J.; Rev. Marcellino Romagno, Pastor, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Asbury Park, N. J.; Rev. Matthew E. Wyse, Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Trenton, N. J.



A CONVERT CLASS OF 53 ADULTS AND CHILDREN RECENTLY BAPTIZED
in St. Nicholas' Catholic Church, St. Louis, Mo. Father Charles Reinelt, S.V. D., the zealous pastor, is the priest in surplice at the top right center

SEPTEMBER'S SAINTS

Sept. 8 —

Mary's Nativity

With the exception of the feast of the Assumption, the Nativity is the greatest feast in Mary's honor. The birth of Mary signals the beginning of our salvation, for of her is to be born the Savior of the human race. Just as children rightly rejoice on the birthday of their mother, so should all Catholics honor their heavenly Mother by a joyful day spent in her service and honor. Attendance at Holy Mass and the reception of Holy Communion today would be a very pleasing birthday present to Mary.



ST. PETER CLAVER
Patron saint of all Negro Mission work in the United States. His feast-day is September 9

Sept. 9 — St. Peter Claver

Holy Scripture tells us that from the visible perfections we see about us we come to the knowledge of the Creator of them. Today's saint, a seventeenth century Spanish Jesuit is an admirable example of the captivating perfection of God — charity. Those many inspired passages of Holy Writ which tell of the importance of charity must have taken deep root in this great saint, for he spent himself completely in ministering to the spiritual and bodily needs of countless Negro slaves in South America. His life teaches us the truth that God is no respecter of persons. Pray to St. Peter Claver for the success and spread of all the Negro missions in the U. S., of which he is the special patron.

Sept. 14 — Exaltation of the Cross

This date formerly commemorated the feast of the Finding of the Cross but in the eighth century was dedicated to the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. A Persian king had seized the relic of the Cross and kept it for four-

teen years when Heraclius, with help from on high, succeeded in regaining it. Clothed in poor garments and barefooted, Heraclius bore the Cross on his shoulders to the mount of Calvary. All of us have a cross to carry. It will profit us only if we carry it in a humble and contrite spirit. Ask this grace of our Divine Lord today.

Sept. 15, 17, 18 —

Ember Days

On these days the Church requires her members to observe fast and abstinence. These ember days of

September are intended to remind us of the solemn reading of the Law by Esdras and the promise of the Jews to observe it and also of the feast of Tabernacles which commemorated the liberation of the Israelites from Egypt. Some extra little penance performed in a cheerful and humble spirit is an excellent way to spend these days. Pray for victory and peace based on justice and charity.

Sept. 26 — St. Isaac Jogues and Companions

These intrepid French Jesuit missionaries suffered unbelievable hardships in their work among the savage Indians. They were learned and cultured men who left all to convert the savage people of this land and finally were martyred. Perhaps their blood was the price demanded by God for the gift of faith you and I have received. The greatest appreciation of God's graces and the heroic sacrifices of these martyrs can be shown by living that faith for which they shed their blood. Pray today for the gift of faith for all here in the United States, and for our boys in service in foreign lands.

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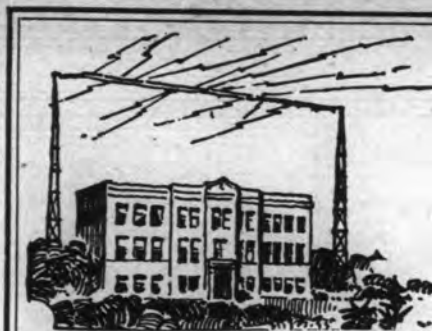
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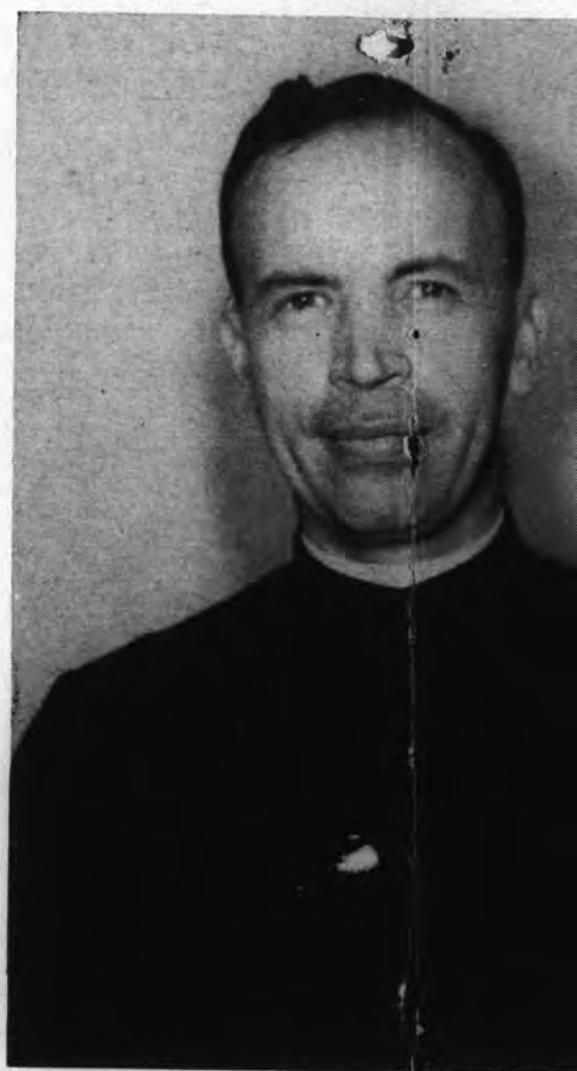
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BROADCAST from

Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi
Catholic Negro Seminary in America



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The roll call of the Major Seminarians has been increased. In the last week of June, on the last day, we piled into the Seminary truck and rolled over to Gulfport. As we drew up at the railroad station, the train pulled in. We dashed over to the panting coaches, and there — piling out of the door, were four newly ripe seminarians, who had just completed their novitiate at Techny, Ill. They were Fraters Dauphin of Opelousas, La., Figaro of Lake Charles, La., Lewis of Panama Canal Zone, and Washington of Cocanut Grove, Fla. We greeted them gladly, sought around for baggage and once more in the trusty truck we wended our way home with our once sadly depleted numbers now raised to eight.

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to become a part of our little community, which they left as graduates two years ago.

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We spent our holiday on the fifth, since the Fourth was a Sunday. Traditional games and contests were held. A hundred-yard dash was won by one of the new seminarians just recently returned from Techny, Curtis Washington. Many other races almost too numerous to count were held.

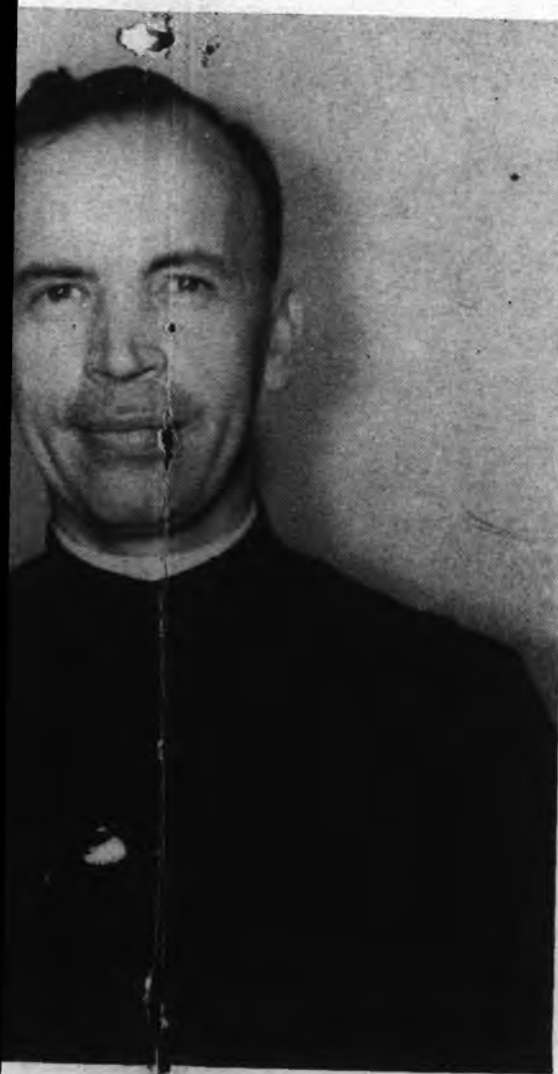
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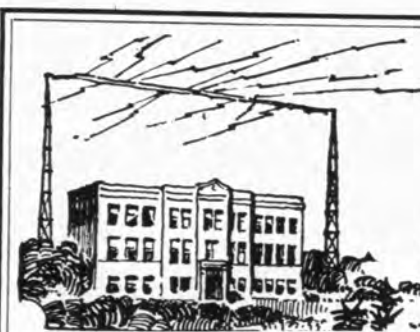
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The Great Things in Life

RUTH TAYLOR

There is a splendid sentence that has appeared in most of the Negro papers lately — I wish it had appeared elsewhere as well for its lesson knows no class or creed or color. "Rationing has taught the fine lesson that someone must live beside yourself." In that line lies the whole secret of greatness.

The great things in life are the simple things. Friendship, work, love — they are the true essentials without which there is no happiness. As Hendrik van Loon wrote — "We are all of us fellow travelers along the same road and, as such, it behooves us to work together for one common purpose, the greatest amount of happiness for each and all of our companions."

We say that the thing we crave most of all for ourselves is a chance to get ahead — liberty and freedom in which to progress, the right to live as we choose, the equal opportunity of equals to work and live

and grow. But to have these things, all men must have them the world over. We can't keep the other from living his own life, and yet live as we want to live.

In order to achieve these ends we need wisdom to act justly, kindness to deal mercifully, understanding to deal with our brothers as we would be dealt with; valor to fight cruelty and prejudice, generosity of spirit to love our brothers as ourselves.

Only as we obtain these qualities can we keep our souls as well as our bodies free. Hatred and envy and contempt are the curses of life. The only way to eradicate them is to wear the amulet of love — the will to give and to bless our neighbors — to have the spirit of friendliness toward all men.

The Golden Rule is still the most practical rule of life. The one peace that will be possible in this war is the peace that free men make — a peace applicable to all people.

"Fruits of a Good Example"

Father Francis Baltes, S.V.D., pastor of Holy Ghost Mission in Jackson, Miss., recently received the following letter from one of his colored converts who is in an army camp somewhere in the Southland:

"Father, here's something very interesting and something which I am very happy about.

"When I first came here, I noticed at night that not a single soldier said an evening prayer on his knees by his bed. For one full week they noticed how I

faithfully knelt by my bed and said my morning and evening prayers. Now, most of them kneel and say their evening prayers, and some, their morning prayers.

"These are the fruits of a good example. I think I remember your telling me once long ago in an Ethics class that 'a good example is better than a good sermon.'

"Goodbye, Father; I remain,

"Sincerely yours,

"Dock"

WHAT SAMMY WANTED TO BE

GERTRUDE ANDERSON

On a glorious summer vacation day, six little Oklahoma colored children sat on the front porch of a small house.

"When I get big," boasted one of them named Henry, "I'm going to be a big doctor and make a LOT of money!"

"Me, too!" exclaimed Benny Smith, the fat and round little son of the town doctor.

Hattie said that when *SHE* got big she wanted to have a cat and dog hospital. Margaret Jones, who was only six, and who was losing all her very white shiny front teeth, lisped out her intention to become a Red Cross nurse. Florence, Margaret's next older sister, said she just wouldn't be anything else but a school-teacher!

Quiet little ten-year-old Sammy Wilson had never told anyone in the whole wide world about the secret longing in his own little heart.

"What you gonna be, Sammy?" fat little Benny demanded.

Sammy hesitated a moment and said very quietly, "A priest, like Father Walsh."

"A PRIEST!" cried Henry. "You're crazy, Sammy. Why don't you be something like we are going to be and make a lot of money!"

"But I don't *want* a lot of money," Sammy insisted. "I just want to help those people out there." Sammy pointed to the white cotton fields where men and women were busy picking cotton.

"What do you mean 'help them'?" Henry argued. "They've got as much money as YOU have, and that sure isn't very much!"

Sammy very patiently tried to tell Henry that he hadn't meant to help by giving money. "I just want to help to bring them into Christ's beautiful Holy Church." Sammy almost whispered the words as he stared out across the fields. He was dreaming of the day when he would stand before a white altar offering the very Body and Blood of Christ, the Son, to His Heavenly Father, the Creator of all mankind, as

a sacrifice, in atonement for his own sins and those of his people.

The children were very quiet as they watched Sammy. Then, spying Father Walsh on the sidewalk in front of them, they rose respectfully to greet him and flew off in all directions to their homes for lunch.

Sammy had been last with his "Good mornin', Father," and started to follow after his friends when Father Walsh asked him to wait. "Sit down a minute, Sammy, I want to talk to you."

The good priest sat down upon the porch and young Sammy used his long skinny legs and arms to climb up beside him.

"I couldn't help overhearing the answer you gave to Henry," Father Walsh began. "You must pray very hard, Sammy, to protect that desire in your heart to become a priest to work among your people. Perhaps you may never have realized it, but not so long ago our very own great country of America was a missionary country itself. Missionary priests from other countries where the Church had been set up brought to America, the Seed, or the Word of God. Those missionary priests then had to work very hard to build churches and schools here in the midst of the wilderness of our early country in order to educate and train a Native Clergy, which in our case was a clergy of American priests and bishops; for each country must have its own priesthood, priests who understand its people and their particular needs. Now, in turn, our own Native Priests are going out to still other countries to carry the Seed, or the Word of God, and to set up churches and schools to create there Native Clergies. You see, Sammy, that's the way the Church has grown since Christ Himself, so long ago, told the Apostles to "go forth and preach the Gospel to all nations."

"But, Sammy," continued the priest, "you have a mighty big job right here in America. We must have a NATIVE COLORED PRIESTHOOD. There

(Continued on page 163)

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"Fruits of a Good Example"

Father Francis Baltes, S.V. D., pastor of Holy Ghost Mission in Jackson, Miss., recently received the following letter from one of his colored converts who is in an army camp somewhere in the Southland:

"Father, here's something very interesting and something which I am very happy about.

"When I first came here, I noticed at night that not a single soldier said an evening prayer on his knees by his bed. For one full week they noticed how I

faithfully knelt by my bed and said my morning and evening prayers. Now, most of them kneel and say their evening prayers, and some, their morning prayers.

"These are the fruits of a good example. I think I remember your telling me once long ago in an Ethics class that 'a good example is better than a good sermon.'

"Goodbye, Father; I remain,

"Sincerely yours,

"Dock"

WHAT SAMMY WANTED TO BE

GERTRUDE ANDERSON

On a glorious summer vacation day, six little Oklahoma colored children sat on the front porch of a small house.

"When I get big," boasted one of them named Henry, "I'm going to be a big doctor and make a LOT of money!"

"Me, too!" exclaimed Benny Smith, the fat and round little son of the town doctor.

Hattie said that when *SHE* got big she wanted to have a cat and dog hospital. Margaret Jones, who was only six, and who was losing all her very white shiny front teeth, lisped out her intention to become a Red Cross nurse. Florence, Margaret's next older sister, said she just wouldn't be anything else but a school-teacher!

Quiet little ten-year-old Sammy Wilson had never told anyone in the whole wide world about the secret longing in his own little heart.

"What you gonna be, Sammy?" fat little Benny demanded.

Sammy hesitated a moment and said very quietly, "A priest, like Father Walsh."

"A PRIEST!" cried Henry. "You're crazy, Sammy. Why don't you be something like we are going to be and make a lot of money!"

"But I don't *want* a lot of money," Sammy insisted. "I just want to help those people out there." Sammy pointed to the white cotton fields where men and women were busy picking cotton.

"What do you mean 'help them'?" Henry argued. "They've got as much money as *YOU* have, and that sure isn't very much!"

Sammy very patiently tried to tell Henry that he hadn't meant to help by giving money. "I just want to help to bring them into Christ's beautiful Holy Church." Sammy almost whispered the words as he stared out across the fields. He was dreaming of the day when he would stand before a white altar offering the very Body and Blood of Christ, the Son, to His Heavenly Father, the Creator of all mankind, as

a sacrifice, in atonement for his own sins and those of his people.

The children were very quiet as they watched Sammy. Then, spying Father Walsh on the sidewalk in front of them, they rose respectfully to greet him and flew off in all directions to their homes for lunch.

Sammy had been last with his "Good mornin', Father," and started to follow after his friends when Father Walsh asked him to wait. "Sit down a minute, Sammy, I want to talk to you."

The good priest sat down upon the porch and young Sammy used his long skinny legs and arms to climb up beside him.

"I couldn't help overhearing the answer you gave to Henry," Father Walsh began. "You must pray very hard, Sammy, to protect that desire in your heart to become a priest to work among your people. Perhaps you may never have realized it, but not so long ago our very own great country of America was a missionary country itself. Missionary priests from other countries where the Church had been set up brought to America, the Seed, or the Word of God. Those missionary priests then had to work very hard to build churches and schools here in the midst of the wilderness of our early country in order to educate and train a Native Clergy, which in our case was a clergy of American priests and bishops; for each country must have its own priesthood, priests who understand its people and their particular needs. Now, in turn, our own Native Priests are going out to still other countries to carry the Seed, or the Word of God, and to set up churches and schools to create there Native Clergies. You see, Sammy, that's the way the Church has grown since Christ Himself, so long ago, told the Apostles to "go forth and preach the Gospel to all nations."

"But, Sammy," continued the priest, "you have a mighty big job right here in America. We must have a NATIVE COLORED PRIESTHOOD. There

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FATHER PROVINCIAL WRITES ABOUT THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEMINARY



ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY 20 YEARS AGO

On September 16, it will be twenty years that the late Bishop of Natchez, Miss., the Most Reverend John E. Gunn, S.M., solemnly dedicated, in the presence of 800 people, the students' building of St. Augustine's Seminary, at Bay Saint Louis, Miss. For three years previous it had been located at Greenville, Miss., and was known as Sacred Heart College. Priests and students were living in cramped quarters, totally unsuited for the training of boys for the priesthood. But it was the best that the founder, Father Matthew Christman, S.V.D., could do in those days.

However, from the very beginning Father Christman had intended to transfer the new venture, as soon as ground could be had, to the Gulf Coast of Mississippi or to Louisiana, where more Catholic Negroes were living and consequently more vocations to the priesthood could be found and cultivated. Here it should be emphasized that, contrary to some statements made in the

past by some writers, the people of Greenville, both white and colored, were friendly to the new undertaking and in no way opposed the training of colored boys to the priesthood. When in the heyday of the Negro-baiting Ku Klux Klan some members of the infamous Klan from the State of Texas attempted to interfere with the young institution, outstanding citizens of Greenville, both Catholic and Protestant, came to the defense and aid of the Fathers and students and emphatically repudiated any such unwarranted interference with the affairs of the Community. Only recently one of the prominent leaders of Greenville expressed his deep regret that our Society did not leave the Seminary in Greenville.

A few weeks ago one of our zealous and veteran missionaries, Father Anthony Jacobs, S.V.D., of St. Joseph's Mission, Meridian, Miss., was a patient at the Seminary. I visited him often in his sick room and eagerly and attentively listened to him recounting in his

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

own humorous way his experiences of the first three years of the new Seminary at Greenville. He was the first procurator. Though rather weak from a treacherous disease, Father Jacobs actually waxed enthusiastic when he described the struggles, hardships and bitter disappointments of the early years of the Seminary. Accommodations were extremely poor. Financial aid was meager. Vocations were rare and those who came, were poorly prepared or not qualified at all for this life of sacrifice. Disappointments were many and great. Only a few boys stuck it out and these are today doing fine work as priests of our Society in the Lafayette Diocese of Louisiana. Indeed, as good Father Jacobs told me: "Father Provincial, if it had not been God's Will that we train colored boys for the priesthood, this undertaking should and would have utterly collapsed at the very beginning." And then looking out of the window, he continued: "When I see today these spacious and beautiful grounds and the many substantial buildings of St. Augustine's Seminary silhouetted against the Southern skies, the many priests, seminarians and

Brothers walking back and forth through the peaceful campus, I cannot help saying, IT'S ALL A DREAM TO ME!"

The Seminary received new impetus and life with the transfer to Bay Saint Louis on September 16, 1923. This momentous move was made possible through the kindness of the local pastor of the so-called Gulf Church, the Very Reverend Andrew Canon Gmelch. He aided our Society to secure some fine property in his parish. Only 17 students, three priests and one lay teacher were present when the classes began two days after the dedication. A small number after 3 years of hard and patient work in Greenville.

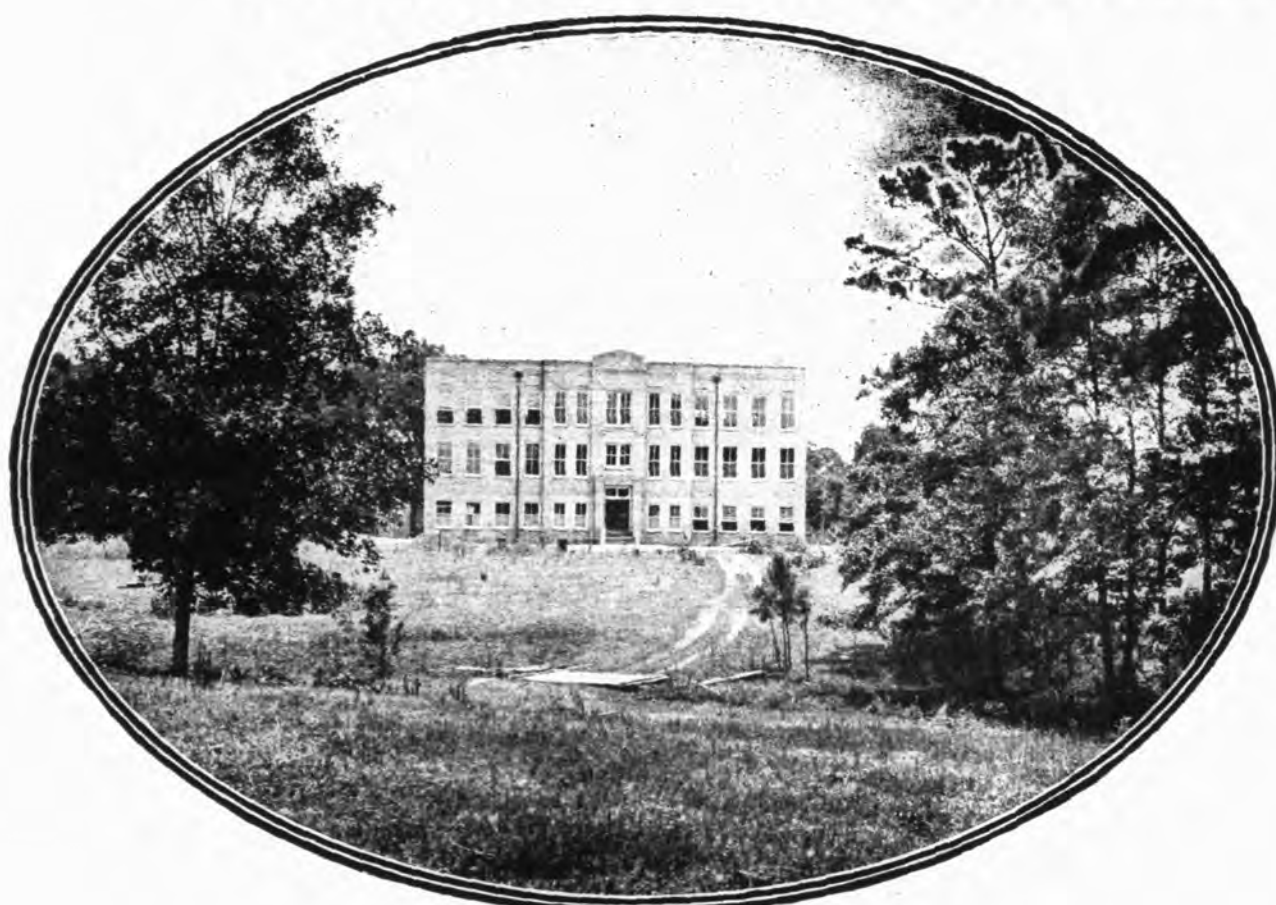
But it was God's Work and Will. The success has not been wanting. During the last twenty years St. Augustine's Seminary has grown and is growing. There are 55 students in the Highschool Department; 10 in the Novitiate at St. Mary's Mission House, Techy, Illinois, and 8 in the Major Seminary. In addition there are 15 priests and 15 Brothers and 2 Brother Candidates. Moreover, 18 priests have gone forth from St.

(Continued on page 168)



AN AIRVIEW PICTURE OF PART OF THE SEMINARY TODAY

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(Continued on page 168)



AN AIRVIEW PICTURE OF PART OF THE SEMINARY TODAY



"Quote and Unquote"

- What Others Are Saying Of
- And About the Negro

"When young Negro men, for instance, capable of assimilating training and of holding jobs that would help produce ships, guns, tanks or other war materials, continue to have little or no opportunity in that direction, then there is obviously a failure to utilize manpower to the fullest degree possible."

The Birmingham Age-Herald

"We can challenge Japan at a vulnerable point by showing contempt for doctrines and practices of racial conflict, by loyal cooperation with our allies in Asia, and by recognizing the human worth of peoples of other than the majority race within our own territories."

Ambassador Joseph Grew

"We will never be able to wipe out discrimination until we wipe out the misunderstanding that is the cause of it. And no matter whether we are the discriminated against or the discriminators, we have a responsibility. . . . We do not want kindness or charity, but we do want justice and understanding. Individual acts of unfairness should be condemned no matter where they occur — but the main issue cannot be settled without education. . . . There is just one way in which minorities can educate and train majorities in understanding, and that is to be good advertisements for their own people. We have no right to let down our race, our nation or our religion by being a poor illustration of it. . . . We must remember, unfair as it may be, that not only will *we* be judged by our actions, but that all of the group from which we come will be condemned or praised by what we do. . . . We can put the blame for discrimination square-

ly where it belongs — on ignorance, pride, fear and carefully stimulated prejudices, but the responsibility for eradicating it is directly on each of us as individuals — minority as well as majority." — RUTH TAYLOR

"Emancipation left our Negro folk homeless, but it could never divorce them from the lifestream of American culture. They are beyond the legislation of class distinction. America needs to see with their eyes the religious reality of everyday circumstances; it needs the power of their humility, their graciousness, and their deep feeling for humanity which recognizes brothers in the white, the brown, the red and the black. America needs 'God's chillun.'"

The Field Afar

"Peace cannot be achieved alone by military and naval might, even in times like these when force must be answered by force. World peace cannot be maintained in any case if the white peoples cling to such might to control the darker races. Until their thinking is no longer warped by the doctrine of racial superiority, this dogma will rise up like Banquo's ghost to plague them. . . . Peace is a product of mutual respect; of equal status and opportunity. So long as dominant groups deny basic rights to weaker racial minorities so long will there be wars and rumors of war. The leaders of peace must find ways and means to remove the myths of racism from the minds and hearts of the peoples of the world; to teach them that prestige springs from good will; that safety of economic, family, and national values lies in justice and in

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

friendly relations between races and groups. For peace is a creature of the mind and of the spirit."

GEORGE E. HAYES in *Survey Graphic*

"The Church is making a determined effort to win these people in the United States. Catholic leaders have done great work in bettering interracial relations and furthering the position of Negroes in America. Perhaps it is Catholicism that will lead the way in overcoming an attitude that has kept the Colored people in virtual degradation, a condition that is America's shame.

"The American Negroes have experienced, in the words of Dr. Alain Locke (*The Negro in America*), 'a long inferno of slavery and a yet unfinished social purgatory.' Their inferior social and economic status is peculiarly American. In many other countries they were and are accepted as equals. Refer to Thackeray's *Henry Esmond* and you will find historical literary evidence of this. Refer to news from France in the last few years and you will see an American Negro woman, a popular entertainer, enthusiastically accepted, even to a romance with a French count."

Denver Catholic Register

"Before this war is ended, industrial discrimination based on racial prejudices will have been pretty thoroughly eliminated....

"... we do not have enough manpower to do the war job unless we utilize every available unit with utmost efficiency....

"Therefore, whether individuals or groups may like it or not, racial, religious, sectional and idiosyncratic bars are going to be lowered close to the ground within a few months."

The Gary Post-Tribune

"After standing shoulder to shoulder in the present war, we must face with one heart and soul the no less formidable task of building a new order which will assure us an era of freedom through a peace founded on universal justice. And by justice I mean no steel-cold

calculating opportunism, but a law of love, which sees in our fellowmen images of God, and souls precious in His sight because redeemed by the sacrifice of His Son.... No blood nor soil nor race superiority for Christian men."

CARDINAL HINSLEY

"We have always believed — and we believe today, that all peoples, without distinction of race, color or religion, who are prepared and willing to accept the responsibilities of liberty, are entitled to its enjoyment. We have always sought — and we seek today — to encourage and aid all who aspire to freedom to establish their right to it by preparing themselves to assume its obligations."

CORDELL HULL, *Secretary of State*

What Sammy Wanted to Be

(Continued from page 159)

are many, many thousands of your own colored people right here who must be brought into Christ's Holy, Apostolic Church. You will be a NATIVE PRIEST to them — because you are of their race — being one of them, and having been born among them, you know best the particular help and graces they need to become good and faithful members of Christ's Church on earth and through His Church, to reach Heaven."

Sammy was very quiet as Father Walsh spoke. He was thinking that perhaps at this very minute in far-off China, or Africa, or even on some tiny island, young boys like himself, who love God very much, would one day, as he would, be NATIVE PRIESTS in their own particular countries — serving God and their people. Each one of them would then, just as he had dreamed he would some day, ascend the steps of an altar to offer to God, the Father, the Body and Blood of His own Divine Son, as Sacrifice, asking pardon and mercy for himself and his people and begging God to send His blessing upon them all, and to bring them all safely into His Presence forever.



With our SVD Fathers on the Colored Missions

Keeping Busy

YAZOO CITY, MISS. — The Franciscan Sisters of St. Francis' Mission School have no trouble keeping themselves busy. During the school year, the teaching of over 300 children in eight grades did not keep them quite busy (?) enough, and so they held night classes for 50 adults several times each week.

Now during vacation time the Sisters are staying on at the Mission and conducting a summer school for retarded children so that they will be better fit for their grades when the regular session starts again. 74 children attend the summer school every day.

Although there are only 30 Colored Catholics in Yazoo City, all of whom are converts, the attendance at Sunday Mass averages about 100 children and grown-ups.

Father Smith Gives Mission

ASBURY PARK, N. J. — Father Vincent Smith, who is stationed with Father John Buys at the new St. Peter Claver's Mission here, recently conducted a week's mission in the Church of Our Lady of the Divine Shepherd, Trenton, N. J., of which Father Joseph Ford is the pastor.

Another Army Chaplain

ST. LOUIS, MO. — Father George Stephan, assistant at St. Nicholas' Church here, has joined the U. S. Armed Forces as a Chap-

lain. Father Stephan was ordained at St. Mary's Mission House, Tech-ny, Ill., in 1935. He was engaged in colored mission work at St. Elizabeth's Church in Chicago until 1940 when he was appointed assistant at St. Patrick's Church in Oakland, Calif. Father Stephan came back into the colored work in 1941 as an assistant in St. Nicholas' Church, St. Louis, Mo. Father Aloysius



SUCCESSOR AND PREDECESSOR

Father John Gasper (left), former Rector of St. Augustine's Seminary, has succeeded Father Anthony Jacobs (right) as pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Meridian, Miss. Father Jacobs, who became unable to carry on his work after 23 years in the Colored Missions, is now convalescing in St. John's Sanitarium, Springfield, Illinois

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER



CONFIRMATION CLASS IN JACKSON, MISS.

The 58 adults and children who were confirmed recently in Holy Ghost Church, Jackson, Miss. Most Rev. Richard O. Gerow, D.D., Bishop of Natchez, is at the top center. The priests are (left to right): Father William Leech, pastor of St. Peter's Church; Father Francis Baltes, pastor, and his assistant, Father Clement Mathis

Ketteler will replace Father Stephan at St. Nicholas'.

No Place Like Home

BAY ST. LOUIS, MISS. — Father Clarence Howard, our missionary knight-errant, has at last returned home to St. Augustine's Seminary after an absence of two and a half months.

Father was busily engaged in giving a mission at St. Elizabeth's Church in Chicago, Ill., from May 2 to May 9. He also conducted a special retreat for the high-school students and a children's mission for the pupils of the grammar school at the request of the pastor, Father William Brambrink. During the following week Father gave vocational talks and showed the movie of the Seminary to both the children and adults of St. Elizabeth's, St. Anselm's, Corpus Christi, Holy

Name of Mary, and St. Joseph's.

From May 16 to 23, Father Byrne, pastor of St. Martin's Church, Minneapolis, Minn., had Father Howard conduct a mission for his parishioners. During the following week Father gave a mission in St. Leonard's Church in Minneapolis, of which Father Leonard Hirman is the pastor.

During the month of June and for a part of July Father Howard was kept "on the go" lecturing and preaching on the Negro Missions in various parishes in the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa.

Father is now accepting engagements for Missions to be preached during the fall, winter and spring of 1943-44 season. Requests for Missions may be addressed to Rev. Clarence J. Howard, S.V. D., St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi.



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Dear Boys and Girls:

Well, here we are together once more after a long summer vacation. I'll bet you are looking swell and feeling grand after that long recess and all that recreation. Or maybe you worked during a part of your vacation. Then, you ought to have pretty strong muscles by now.

I wonder how many of you took even a tiny peep at your school books during vacation? Oh, oh! If your books are dusty and you are a little rusty in your studies your teacher won't like that, so you had better get out your books and make up for lost time.

I didn't have a regular vacation just like yours. I spent some of the summer at St. Augustine's Seminary, writing for the MESSENGER and tending to other business. But I spent a good part of the summer travelling around (riding crowded trains and buses) trying to make new friends for the Seminary and the Colored Mission work.

And now, I'm wondering if some of you wouldn't help me with this work during the school year — I mean help with the work of making new friends for the Seminary and the Colored Missions. One good way for you to do this would be to sell some copies of ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER every month. You see, when people get the MESSENGER and read of the great work that the missionary priests and Sisters are doing in the Colored Missions, and of how many things they need in order to keep on doing lots of good, then maybe some of the people will feel like giving a donation to help

these missionary priests and Sisters get some of the things they need for their mission churches and schools. Or maybe they will pay \$1.00 for a subscription to the MESSENGER, and this will help to pay for the printing of our magazine. Or at least they'll say a prayer for the success of our Mission work.

So you see you could do much good for the Seminary and the Missions by selling the MESSENGER. And you could make a little extra money for yourself at the same time. How? I would send you 5 copies of the MESSENGER for 35c (that is 7c each), you could sell them at the regular price of 10c a copy; that would give you 50c, with 15c profit for yourself. You could get 10 copies of the MESSENGER for 70c, sell them for \$1.00 and have 30c profit. 20 copies would give you 60c for yourself. An energetic boy or girl might be able to sell 50 copies a month, and thus make \$1.50 profit. Your pastor might let you sell the MESSENGER after Mass on Sunday, or you might have a regular route, get a number of persons who would buy the MESSENGER from you every month when you deliver it to their homes.

So, order your first copies right now! I will be very grateful if you help to make the MESSENGER better known, and the missionaries will be very grateful if you help to make new friends for them.

MY MAIL BAG

Here are three letters which came too late for the last issue; they are from pupils of a tiny Negro Mission school in Arkansas:

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

Dear Father Howard: I decided that I would write and let you know that we are saving our pennies and nickels in a mite-box to educate a boy for the priesthood. And we thought it would be nice to do this during Lent. I know that God will be pleased to know that I am doing something to help to educate a priest.

I am going to continue to save my pennies and nickels, and not going to spend them for so much candy, but I will buy a little candy once in a while.

I have a bank at home with almost a hundred pennies in it, so I am going to offer up my Mass for you, and my Holy Communion. I hope that you will say some prayers for me sometimes. Yours respectfully,

Dorothy Marie Boswell, Grade 6
St. Gabriel's School
1125 Malvern Avenue
Hot Springs, Ark.

Dear Father Howard: I have not bought any candy during Lent. I have put all of my pennies in the mite-box. I am praying to the Lord that I may be a priest like you someday. Hope the boys and girls will help me like I am trying to help you. Pray for me that I may be a priest. From

John Peppers, Grade 5
St. Gabriel's School
Hot Springs, Ark.

Dear Father Howard: I did all my might to put pennies and nickels in the mite-box. I hope I will be a Sister someday. Father Haines is my teacher. And I hope my brothers will be priests someday. Yours respectfully,

Rachel Peppers, Grade 4
St. Gabriel's School
Hot Springs, Ark.

Dorothy, John and Rachel, you and the other pupils did a splendid job in saving up \$1.76 of your own money in the mite-box. I have received the money, to which Father Haines (I am sure it was he) added enough to make an even \$2.00, and I wish to thank you heartily for it. Since you want it to be added to a Burse for the education of one of our Colored Seminarians, I have added it to the Burse in Memory of Archbishop Canevin, which now amounts to \$3002.00. The students who will be aided by this Burse will surely be grateful to you and to all the others who have made contributions to it. I shall pray that John may become a priest and that Rachel may become a Sister. Write again; I shall be glad to hear from you. (NOTE: Father John Haines, C.S.Sp., is pastor of St. Gabriel's Mission which is only about two years old. The school has only two rooms and 53 children.)

Dear Father Howard: We will never forget your nice visit. We appreciated the movie so much, and spoke about it for a long time afterward. Probably someday some of our class will be in Bay Saint Louis.

Father, I wish you could see our large Victory Garden. Father DeBoer had $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres plowed up, and then Sister Hortensia gave each boy and girl in the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades two rows to take care of. We had to break up the ground, plant the seed, put in the fertilizer, and now we are keeping out the weeds. We will come up to the school to can the vegetables as soon as they are ready.

I want to let you know that we had Mass every day during May at 8:15 A.M., and about 200 children attended each morning. We have only 20 Catholic children now, the other four moved to Chicago, but about 18 of the 20 received Holy Communion each morning.

We are again asking Jesus to bless you. We also ask you to pray for us so we may be good children, and also that we may have many more Catholics soon. Sincerely yours,

Dolores Hennington, age 15
St. Francis' School
Yazoo City, Miss.

Thanks for the fine letter, Dolores. I, too, enjoyed my visit to St. Francis' School. I would like to have been present for the first graduation, but I was away up in Minnesota at the time. Thank the class for their invitation. Your Victory Garden must be wonderful. The children made a fine record for attendance at Mass during May. Their prayers and sacrifices will certainly help to build up St. Francis' Mission. Yes, I will pray for all of you to be good children, if you will pray for me always to be a good priest. Write again, soon.

MISSION-GRAPH CONTEST

For those who may be new readers of the CHILDREN'S CORNER let me explain that a Mission-Graph means something true written about one of the 350 Negro Missions in the United States. Here is the idea: Write something you have seen or heard or read about a Colored Mission. Describe the church or the school, a First Communion or Confirmation Class, school closing or an instruction class. Tell how the Mission began, how it has grown. Or tell what you or your parents have done or are doing to help the Negro Missions.

Those who send in the best Mission-Graphs will each win a free one-year subscription to ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER, and the winning Mission-Graphs will be published in the CHILDREN'S CORNER.

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It was the first time any of us ever saw a Confirmation. We closed our ceremony with "Holy God," which was sung by all of the children. We have no other choir.

I know that you will pray that many more will receive the gift of Faith.

August Washington, age 13
240 S. Yazoo Street
Yazoo City, Miss.
(St. Francis' School — Grade 8)

August will receive the MESSENGER free for one year, beginning with this month's issue. Who will be the next?

Goodbye until next month, and in the meantime pray for all of the children in the 250 Colored Mission schools.

FATHER HOWARD, S.V. D.
Bay Saint Louis, Miss.

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Pay his tuition for a year, a month, a week, or a day — and share in the work of the Missions. Address communications to

REV. FATHER RECTOR
St. Augustine's Seminary
Bay Saint Louis, Miss.

Bring Victory Closer Sooner!

Buy More War Stamps & Bonds

Father Provincial Writes . . .

(Continued from page 161)

Augustine's Seminary and are working either in large Negro parishes of the Diocese of Lafayette, or in our S.V. D. Mission in Accra, British West Africa. If Father Christman could only see the Seminary today, how he would rejoice and give thanks to Almighty God!

Since July 2 the Seminary has had a new Father Rector, the Very Reverend Joseph Busch, S.V. D. The greater part of his priestly life has been spent in the Seminary, either teaching or as Novice Master and Spiritual Director of the young Colored Brotherhood. To the readers of the ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER Father Busch is known by his breezy and interesting little stories. He is well prepared to guide this young but ever growing Community of our Society. His problems will be many. To feed and keep a Community of 100 members agoing is a hard job, even in peace time, surely during wartime. However, I know that the friends of our Seminary will not fail to support him with alms and prayers. I feel confident that they will continue to aid in the training of colored boys for the priesthood, because it is God's Work and Will. Therefore, the benefactors of St. Augustine's will be especially blessed!

The former Rector, Father John Gasper, S.V. D. is now administrator of our St. Joseph's Mission in Meridian, Miss. He succeeds the old missionary Father Anthony Jacobs S.V. D., who is convalescing at St. John's Sanitarium, Springfield, Ill. The Community of St. Augustine's Seminary expresses to Father Gasper its gratitude for his tireless and successful work as Rector during the past six years and wishes him God-speed in the new field of missionary labors.

FATHER ECKERT, S.V. D.



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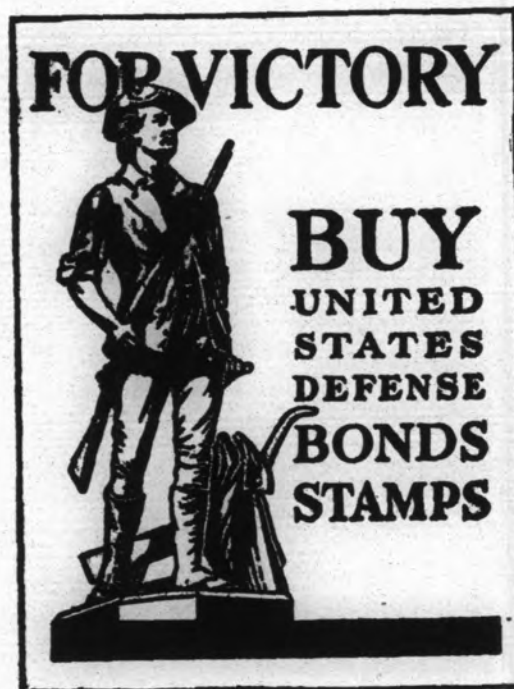
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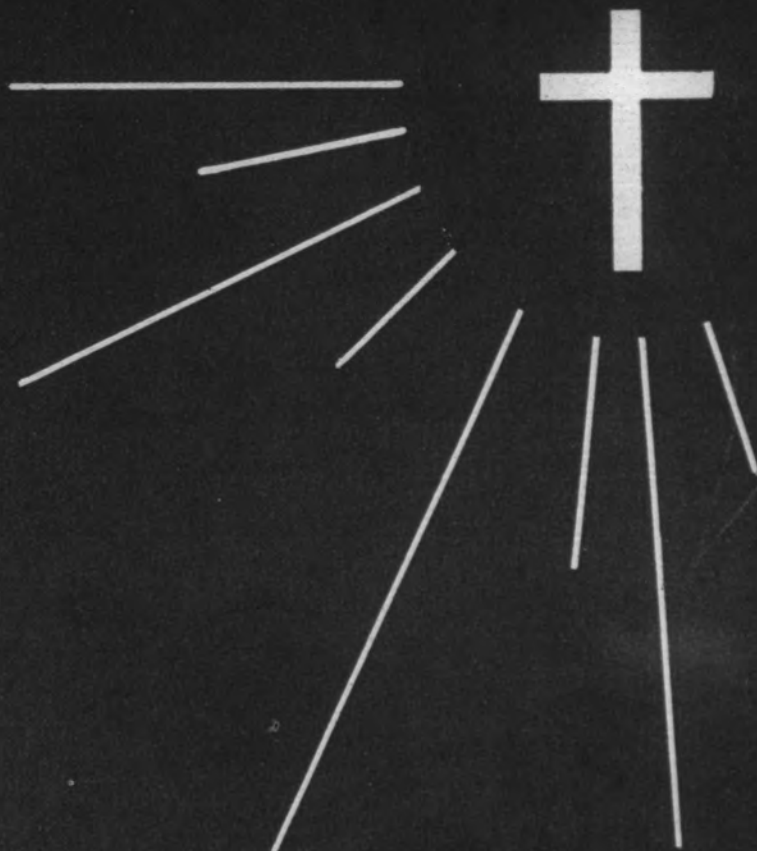
**Attention,
Mr. and Mrs. America —**



- ◆ You are probably earning more money now than you have ever earned before. It would be wise for you to save some of it for the time when wages will not be so high.
- ◆ A good way to save those extra dollars and cents for the future is to invest them in United States War Stamps and Bonds. You help your country's war effort and provide for your own future.
- ◆ A good way to practice charity during this war is to give United States War Stamps and Bonds to the missions and the missionaries and to the religious institutions which train and educate these missionaries. You place your money in the service of God and Country.

St. Augustine's Seminary
Bay Saint Louis, Miss.

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PUBLICATION OFFICE
TECHNY, ILLINOIS

ST.
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BAY ST. LOUIS, MISS.

Vol. XXI, No. 8
OCTOBER, 1943

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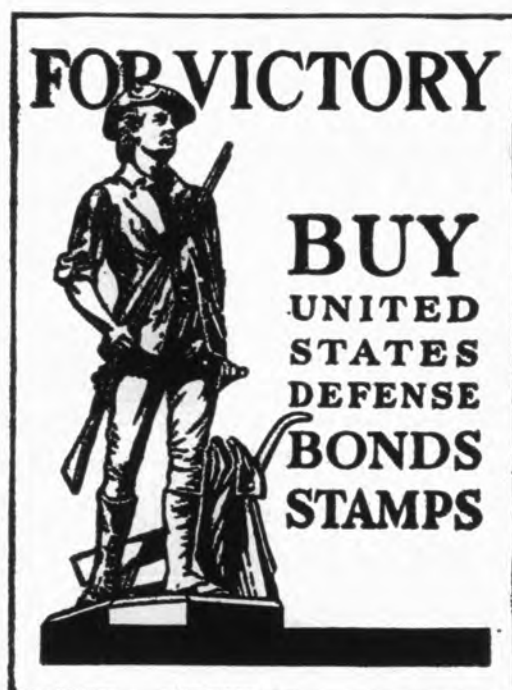


"WE TOOK ONE OF THOSE ABBREVIATED COURSES THEY'VE BEEN
TALKING ABOUT SO MUCH!" (See page 179)

For GOD and for COUNTRY!

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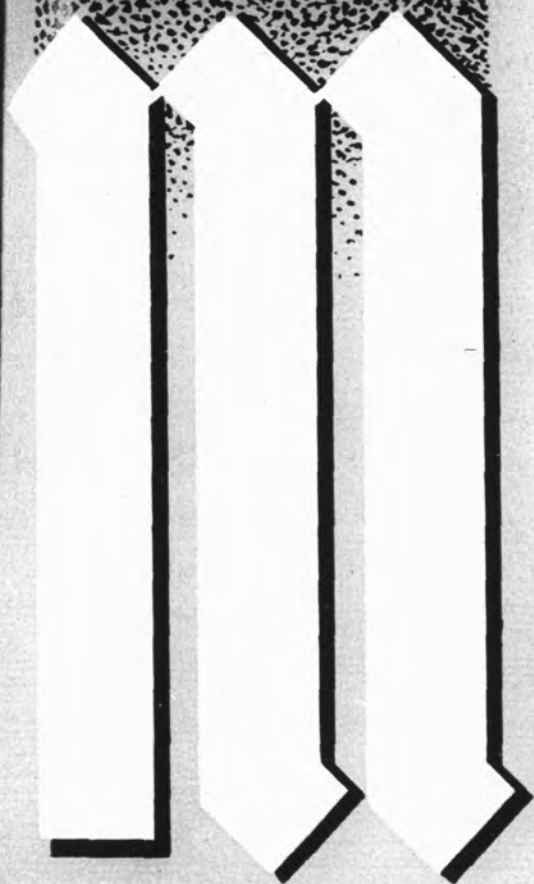
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"WE TOOK ONE OF THOSE ABBREVIATED COURSES THEY'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT SO MUCH!" (See page 179)

MILLIONS OF SOULS TO BE SAVED!

MORE AND MORE PRIESTS ARE NEEDED IN THE NEGRO MISSIONS OF THE U. S. A.

Courageous American Boys and Young Men who are not afraid of sacrifice and hard work and who would like to become **Missionary Priests** are invited to write to

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MESSENGER

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEGRO CLERGY

A Catholic Negro magazine, published monthly, except July, at Techny, Illinois, by St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Subscription \$1.00 a year. Proceeds are used for the education of colored students for the priesthood.

Entered as second-class matter January 1, 1940, at the post office at Techny, Illinois, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of Oct. 3, 1917, authorized July 19, 1918.

Editor: CLARENCE J. HOWARD, S.V.D.
ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY

BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

Volume XXI

OCTOBER, 1943

Number 8

Editorial Page

New Communities of Sisters in Negro Mission Work

The constantly expanding educational, catechetical and social welfare work of the American Negro Missions is making an ever-increasing demand on the communities of Sisters for religious teachers and welfare workers, and the communities of Sisters are responding magnificently. Sisters already engaged in the work are broadening the scope of their activities by opening new schools, hospitals, clinics and catechetical centers. Communities of Sisters not heretofore in the Colored Mission field are taking up the work with ardor and zeal.

Last year three new communities of Sisters entered the Colored Mission field. This fall four other communities have come to help with the harvest of souls.

The Sisters of the Resurrection (Chicago Province) have taken charge of St. Mary Magdalen's School, Tuscaloosa, Ala., their first Negro Mission. Founded in Rome in 1891, this community first came to the United States in 1900, and now numbers 360 professed Sisters. There are two Provinces with head-

quarters at Chicago, Ill., and Castleton, N. Y.

The Sisters, Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary (Beaverville, Ill.) have taken over St. Gabriel's School, Hot Springs, Ark. This community came to the States in 1889 from Montgeron, France. There are now 140 Sisters in this country.

The Franciscan Sisters of Blessed Kunegunda (Chicago) have taken charge of St. Peter Claver's School, Mobile, Ala. This community, established in 1894, now has 385 Sisters.

Four Dominican Sisters of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Caldwell, N. J.), founded in 1872, are now doing catechetical and social service work among the colored people in the newly established St. Peter Claver's Parish, Asbury Park, N. J. This community numbers 400 professed Sisters.

May the ranks of these self-sacrificing Sisters continue to swell so that Christ's Colored Harvest may be gathered more quickly and more abundantly!

NEGROES LOVE THEIR CHILDREN

VERY REV. JOSEPH F. ECKERT, S.V. D.

- Against All Odds
- They Struggle to Provide Better Opportunities for Them



The other day while reading the timely and interesting article in the Catholic weekly *America* (August 14, 1943) "Negro Family Life Faces Great Handicaps," by Sister M. Eugenia, I came across the following sentence, which arrested my attention: "One of their [the Negroes'] outstanding qualities is their great love for their children."

How true is this statement! Any missionary among the American Negroes will be able to verify it by his own observations and examples. It brought back to my memory vivid and inspiring as well as consoling experiences of my long and close association with Negroes in Chicago.

I shall never forget how a few years ago a pious Catholic mother of St. Anselm's Parish in Chicago died

suddenly, leaving eight little children. In the morning she, with most of her children, had attended the regular Sunday Mass and received Holy Communion. Her husband told me that, a few hours after her death, relatives and friends had volunteered to take the children and raise them in the Faith without any cost. The father refused this well-meant offer, for he loved his children too much. He secured a home to keep them together and, while he was on the road as a Pullman porter, his sweet old mother looked tenderly after them. Such examples could easily be multiplied.

How often do childless Negro couples approach priests or Sisters requesting a letter of recommendation to some orphanage so that they may adopt an orphan! To secure

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

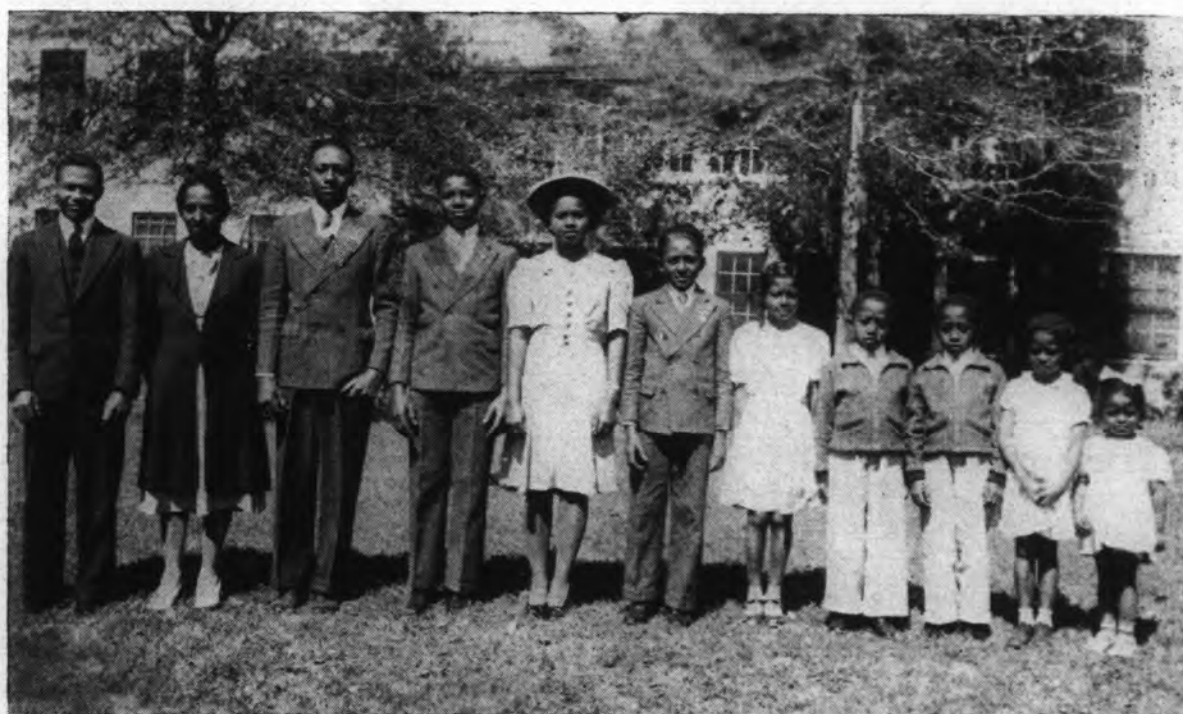
foster homes for Negro orphans was never difficult.

If ever Negro children get into trouble, be sure their parents will move heaven and earth to get them out of it. They deeply resent it if anybody abuses their children.

Negroes love their children. They will take good care of them as far as circumstances permit and as well as they know how to do it. They want them well educated and wherever they can they will send them even to a Catholic school, which often involves heavy financial sacrifices and long tiresome travel by bus or streetcar, and even sometimes brings upon the family the ire of the non-Catholic minister. Their children must have the best education and training which will prepare them for a useful life or professional career. They know that such an education is given by our good Sisters. Their instinctive desire is: Our children must have it better than we. More than 50,000 Negro children are attending our Catholic schools

today. More would come if we had the schools and Sisters.

Of late much has been written in the newspapers and magazines about the mass migration of Negroes from the South to the North, East and West. The story of World War I, only in larger proportions, is being repeated. The urban and especially the rural South is being depopulated and the industrial centers in the North are receiving an abnormal increase of population and incidentally new problems. It is true that Negroes, just as well as the Whites, are lured away by good war jobs and "big easy money," the like of which they have never seen before. But the more ambitious among the Negroes see now a welcome opportunity to break forever with the OLD SOUTH and go North where they hope to better their social and economic standing, get the long desired freedom from oppression and want, and enjoy also the better and more refined things of life. Who can censure them for this? *However, be-*



COLORED CATHOLIC FAMILY OF BALDWIN, LA.

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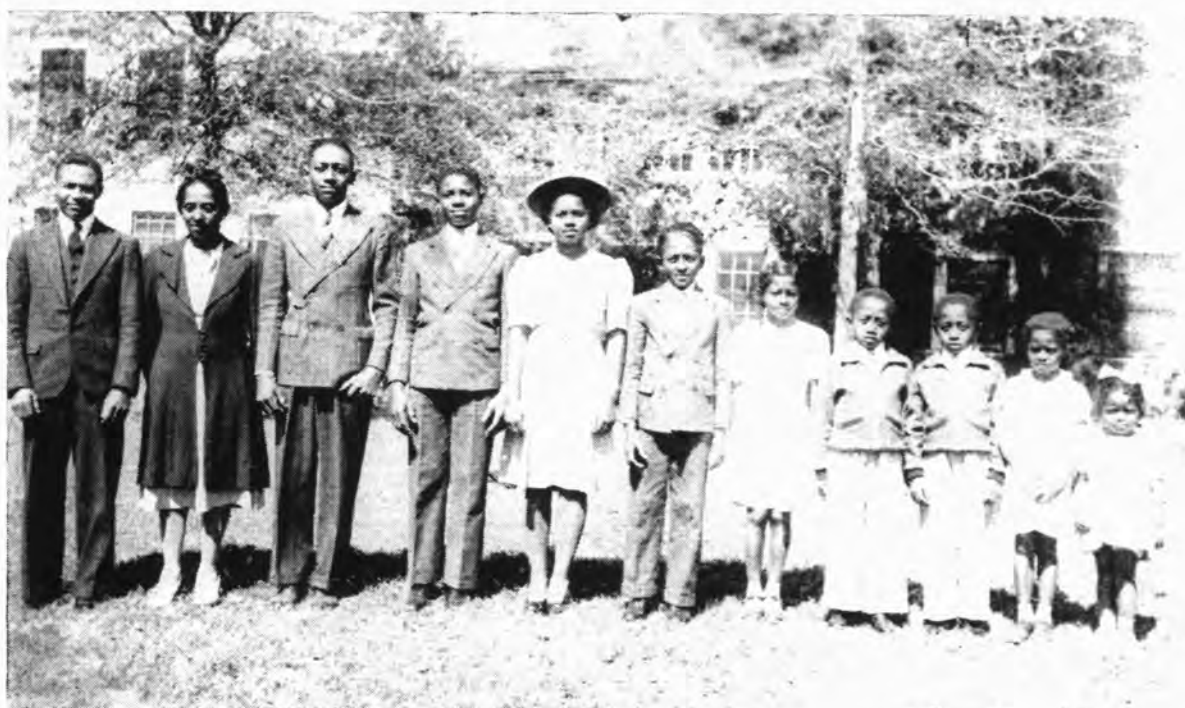
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COLORED CATHOLIC FAMILY OF BALDWIN, LA.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

neath these reasons, advanced by our economists and sociologists, there is to my mind one that reaches far deeper into their hearts and souls and urges them to leave the South; namely, THEIR LOVE FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

Frequently I have asked Negroes who were newcomers from the South in my parish in Chicago why they left the beautiful South to whose balmy climate they were accustomed, where they had perhaps their home and owned property, enjoyed congenial friends and relatives, and why they took the risk of becoming victims of the tough and cold northern winters, or stranded and a burden to the community. Invariably they answered: "Here in the North we get better work, more wages, better homes, better surroundings; we have more security for our lives; we receive better and fairer treatment without being insulted and discriminated against in public as if we were lepers; and especially *there are here better educational facilities and better opportuni-*

ties for our children. They admit that in the last two decades the leaders of our Southern States have been alert to the necessity of more and better schools for Negroes and have built them, but not enough of them as yet, and with poor or no transportation facilities, such as school buses, to reach them.

How anxious the Negroes are to have their children receive the education which is being denied to so many of them, the following example amply testifies. Last year our Negro S.V. D. Fathers, through the arrangement and generosity of the zealous and ever-solicitous Bishop of Lafayette, La., the Most Reverend Jules B. Jeanmard, were able to build a little school on a large plantation near Lafayette to accommodate about 100 children. However, a few days after the opening *over 180 good Catholic children jammed the school*; most of them had never seen the inside of a school though they were more than ten years old.

The nearest school was five miles
(Continued on page 182)



PROUD PARENTS WITH THEIR LITTLE ONES IN VICKSBURG, MISS.
In front of St. Mary's Church after the Blessing of the Children during a Mission

ASBURY PARK'S NEW SVD MISSION

- First Colored Catholic Mission in Asbury Park
- Second One in the Diocese of Trenton

At first it was a Quaker meeting house, then it became a Baptist church. In 1905 it was bought by Catholics, and after being renovated, became Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, serving the Italian Catholics of Asbury Park, N. J. A few months ago it became Asbury Park's first mission church for Negro Catholics. This, in a few words, is the history of the present St. Peter Claver's Church, Asbury Park, N. J.

In the beginning of this year Father John Buys, S.V. D., formerly professor at Sacred Heart Mission House, Girard, Pa., and Father Vincent Smith, S.V. D., formerly assistant at St. Elizabeth's Church, Chicago, Ill., came to Asbury Park to start a colored mission at the invitation of the Most Rev. William A. Griffin, D.D., Bishop of Trenton. Since most of the Italian Catholics were no longer living near the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (a new parish church had been built closer to them) and since many Negroes had moved into the neighborhood, it was decided to turn the church over for the use of the latter.

The church has now been painted and re-decorated, a new hardwood floor has been put in, and a liturgical altar is being installed. A rectory and a Sisters' house complete the mission plant.



ST. PETER CLAVER'S CHURCH
Asbury Park, N. J.

No school can be started this year, so about thirty of the children are attending the Mount Carmel School and the Holy Spirit School. Four Dominican Sisters of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart, Caldwell, N. J., are teaching catechism and doing social work in this, their first colored mission station. With the help of these Sisters it is hoped that many of the Catholics who have drifted away may be found and brought back.

A complete census of the colored Catholics in the new parish has not yet been taken, but a conservative estimate places the number around 300. Twelve persons are now taking convert instructions.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

neath these reasons, advanced by our economists and sociologists, there is to my mind one that reaches far deeper into their hearts and souls and urges them to leave the South; namely, THEIR LOVE FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

Frequently I have asked Negroes who were newcomers from the South in my parish in Chicago why they left the beautiful South to whose balmy climate they were accustomed, where they had perhaps their home and owned property, enjoyed congenial friends and relatives, and why they took the risk of becoming victims of the tough and cold northern winters, or stranded and a burden to the community. Invariably they answered: "Here in the North we get better work, more wages, better homes, better surroundings; we have more security for our lives; we receive better and fairer treatment without being insulted and discriminated against in public as if we were lepers; and especially *there are here better educational facilities and better opportuni-*

ties for our children. They admit that in the last two decades the leaders of our Southern States have been alert to the necessity of more and better schools for Negroes and have built them, but not enough of them as yet, and with poor or no transportation facilities, such as school buses, to reach them.

How anxious the Negroes are to have their children receive the education which is being denied to so many of them, the following example amply testifies. Last year our Negro S.V. D. Fathers, through the arrangement and generosity of the zealous and ever-solicitous Bishop of Lafayette, La., the Most Reverend Jules B. Jeanmard, were able to build a little school on a large plantation near Lafayette to accommodate about 100 children. However, a few days after the opening *over 180 good Catholic children jammed the school*; most of them had never seen the inside of a school though they were more than ten years old.

The nearest school was five miles

(Continued on page 182)



PROUD PARENTS WITH THEIR LITTLE ONES IN VICKSBURG, MISS.

In front of St. Mary's Church after the Blessing of the Children during a Mission

ASBURY PARK'S NEW SVD MISSION

- First Colored Catholic Mission in Asbury Park
- Second One in the Diocese of Trenton

At first it was a Quaker meeting house, then it became a Baptist church. In 1905 it was bought by Catholics, and after being renovated, became Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, serving the Italian Catholics of Asbury Park, N. J. A few months ago it became Asbury Park's first mission church for Negro Catholics. This, in a few words, is the history of the present St. Peter Claver's Church, Asbury Park, N. J.

In the beginning of this year Father John Buys, S.V. D., formerly professor at Sacred Heart Mission House, Girard, Pa., and Father Vincent Smith, S.V. D., formerly assistant at St. Elizabeth's Church, Chicago, Ill., came to Asbury Park to start a colored mission at the invitation of the Most Rev. William A. Griffin, D.D., Bishop of Trenton. Since most of the Italian Catholics were no longer living near the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (a new parish church had been built closer to them) and since many Negroes had moved into the neighborhood, it was decided to turn the church over for the use of the latter.

The church has now been painted and re-decorated, a new hardwood floor has been put in, and a liturgical altar is being installed. A rectory and a Sisters' house complete the mission plant.



ST. PETER CLAVER'S CHURCH
Asbury Park, N. J.

No school can be started this year, so about thirty of the children are attending the Mount Carmel School and the Holy Spirit School. Four Dominican Sisters of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart, Caldwell, N. J., are teaching catechism and doing social work in this, their first colored mission station. With the help of these Sisters it is hoped that many of the Catholics who have drifted away may be found and brought back.

A complete census of the colored Catholics in the new parish has not yet been taken, but a conservative estimate places the number around 300. Twelve persons are now taking convert instructions.



St. Teresa's School, Crowley, La.

Our Lady of Mercy School, Fort Worth, Tex.

Holy Ghost Sisters' Golden Jubilee

CLARENCE J. HOWARD, S.V. D.

- Founded 50 Years Ago in Texas
- To Care for Neglected Negro Children

This year the Sister-Servants of the Holy Ghost and Mary Immaculate are celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of their community.

It was in 1887 that Mrs. Margaret Murphy began to take a special interest in the education and care of the Negro children in San Antonio, Texas. Born in Ireland in 1833, Margaret had been brought to America at the age of six, living first in Freeport, Va., then in Corpus Christi, Texas, where in 1850 she married John Murphy, who later became mayor of Corpus Christi. After the death of her husband Mrs. Murphy moved to San Antonio.

One Sunday at Mass the priest, Father Richard Maloney, O.M.I., preached a sermon on the neglected condition of the colored people. This sermon touched Mrs. Murphy very deeply, and she decided to make the Negro Apostolate her life's work. Having a considerable fortune of her own, she obtained permission from Bishop John C. Neraz

of San Antonio to build a church and school for the colored Catholics of the city. The church — St. Peter Claver's — was dedicated in 1888.

Not long after this Mrs. Murphy and two of her companions, encouraged by Bishop Neraz, entered a course of training for the religious life with the intention of establishing a community of Sisters to work for the spiritual and temporal welfare of the Negro race.

In 1893 these three ladies took the religious Vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience, and thus began the new Congregation of the Sister-Servants of the Holy Ghost and Mary Immaculate.

Today the community numbers 162 professed Sisters and 7 Novices, 86 of whom are engaged in Colored Mission work. The little three-room St. Peter Claver's School has given way to the modern St. Peter Claver's Academy, a State accredited high school and grammar school (388 pupils), which the Sisters hope to develop into a college someday.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

Altogether the Holy Ghost Sisters conduct 19 grammar schools and 5 high schools for Negro children, with a total enrollment of 3,908 pupils. Two of the high schools (St. Peter Claver's in San Antonio and St. Peter's in Dallas) are at the same time boarding schools for girls.

The Sisters also conduct 10 parochial schools for white and Mexican children, as well as a charity home for old folks and children.

The colored schools of the Sister-Servants of the Holy Ghost and Mary Immaculate are located in two archdioceses and eight dioceses in five States as follows:

Louisiana

Convent: St. Joseph's School; 3 Sisters, 114 pupils.

Crowley: St. Theresa's School; 5 Sisters, 248 pupils.

LeBeau: Immaculate Conception Grade and High School; 5 Sisters, 187 pupils.

New Orleans: St. Louis' School; 5 Sisters, 244 pupils.

Thibodaux: St. Luke's Grade and Junior High School; 3 Sisters, 121 pupils.

Shreveport: Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament; 5 Sisters, 225 pupils.

Mississippi

DeLisle: St. Stephen's School; 2 Sisters, 54 pupils.

Laurel Hill: St. Mary's School; 2 Sisters, 110 pupils.

Natchez: St. Francis' Grade and High School; 8 Sisters, 573 pupils.

Pascagoula: St. Peter's School; 3 Sisters, 128 pupils.

Pass Christian: St. Philomena's School; 3 Sisters, 138 pupils.

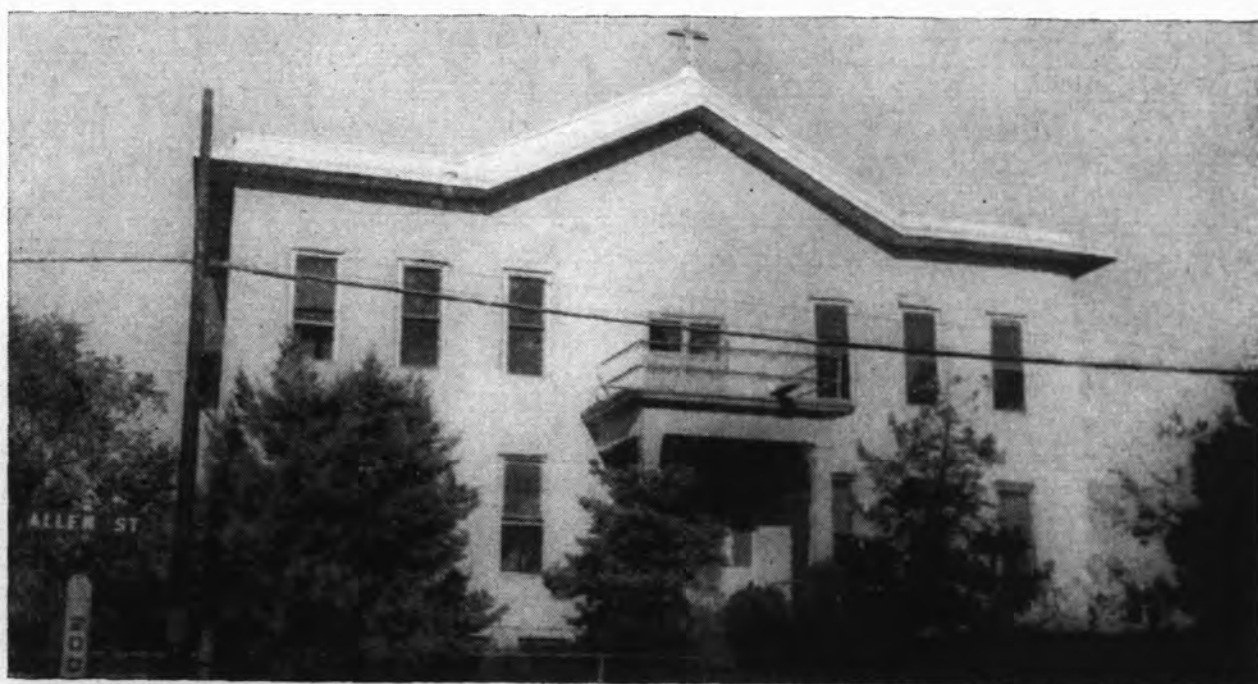
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Oklahoma

Okmulgee: St. Francis de Sales' Grade and High School; 7 Sisters, 220 pupils.

(Continued on page 189)



ST. PETER'S ACADEMY, DALLAS, TEXAS

One of the two boarding schools for colored girls conducted by the Sisters of the Holy Ghost



St. Teresa's School, Crowley, La.

Our Lady of Mercy School, Fort Worth, Tex.

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One of the two boarding schools for colored girls conducted by the Sisters of the Holy Ghost

SAINT MOSES, NEGRO HERMIT

HAROLD R. PERRY, S.V. D.

● From Robber to Hermit and Martyr

Perhaps you have never heard of Saint Moses before now. If you have not, you are not alone, for this saintly Negro, whose extraordinary conversion and holiness of life should claim the interest of many, is actually little known. And yet, his life story is interesting to the point of being exciting.

Moses was born in Ethiopia in the early part of the fourth century. He was gifted with a naturally alert mind and the bodily strength of a giant. The hermits of the Scetian desert, who have handed down the account of his life, say that Moses was a slave owned by a master who filled a public office. During these years frequent outbursts of anger and thefts brought severe punishment upon Moses. Punishment, however, served only to increase his hatred for his master and the burdens of servitude. It was evident this state of affairs could not continue.

One day, because of some incident, Moses killed one of his fellow-servants. To escape punishment he fled from his master. Determined never to return, he collected a band of men around him and lived by highway robbery for fifteen years. These well-armed men roved about in all directions, robbing and spreading terror along the frontiers of Egypt. Their hideouts were scattered and so craftily concealed that every attempt to find them proved futile.

One day Moses planned a theft but was prevented by the barking of

a dog. In anger Moses sought to revenge himself on the dog's master. The people in the neighborhood told him that the master was a shepherd who watched his flock on the opposite side of the Nile. Stripping off his clothes, Moses wrapped them about his head like a turban, stuck a spear through them and swam the River Nile.

The news of Moses' coming had reached the frightened shepherd and he had safely hidden himself. Moses revenged himself on the flock by killing all the sheep except four of the strongest rams which he bound together and, swimming back, sold them in the nearest village. No one dared to lay hands on him and he safely rejoined his band.

However, God, Who wills not the death of the sinner but that he be converted and live, did not let Moses perish in his sins. One day Moses, to escape punishment for his many crimes, was obliged to flee into the Desert of Scete. There he was shown the error of his ways by the holy hermits who lived in that desert. Moses began on the spot the work of his conversion. And a difficult work it was. His nature seemed chained to evil.

To avoid all occasions of sin, Moses went to a mountain on the Liberian boundary of the Desert of Scete. There he threw himself at the feet of the old hermit, Father Isidore, who was the priest of the hermits of this district. Father Isidore received Moses with the loving care of a father, and directed his life

of prayer and penance.

You perhaps have read how hard a Peter Claver, an Aloysius and a Therese had to struggle for perfection, who all their lives from childhood upward had aimed at holiness; but Moses was one who had grown old in sin's merciless grasp. A weaker man would have given up the task. A hundred times Moses was strongly tempted to abandon this penitential life of the desert and to live

a life of comfort again. Often he would run to Father Isidore and tell him of his trials. The old priest comforted him thus: "Fear not, my brother, these attacks of the enemy, for he knows thou art a beginner and he seeks to fill you with disgust. Listen not to him, stay peacefully in your cell, the enemy will depart."

Working, fasting and praying Moses remained in the narrow cave which served him for a cell. He divided his day in fifty parts and at the close of each he recited a certain number of psalms, while he also wove mats and twisted ropes. Thus through mortification and long prayers he gradually overcame the evil spirit and his unruly nature.

During the night it was Moses' practice to visit the cells of the sick and aged hermits. Secretly taking their empty water jars, he would draw water, fill them and bring them back to the sick. This was fatiguing for a man already worn out with



SAINT MOSES, HERMIT

fasting and prayer, for he had to walk a great distance to obtain water.

One evening while carrying a jar of water to an aged solitary, Moses felt himself suddenly thrown to the ground and a violent pain caused him to lose consciousness. A brother hermit found him in this unconscious state and carried him to Father Isidore who lived near the church.

Moses lay ill for a whole year. When he regained his strength he prepared to leave for his cell. However, he shuddered at the thought of the many temptations Satan would again inflict upon him in his cell. Here with Father Isidore there had been peace.

"You are not alone in your struggle," said Father Isidore. "Look up there!"

Moses looked towards the East and saw a bright legion of Angels. He then looked towards the West and beheld a swarm of hideous forms retreating in confusion.

"See, my brother," continued the old priest, "the demons fight against us, but God sends this strong host of Angels to protect us. No, you are not alone!"

Three months later Father Isidore met Moses and asked him if he was still being tormented by the devil. "Oh no, my Father. All have ceased since you opened my eyes to

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

God's grace," humbly replied Moses.

Moses was then invited for the first time to attend an assembly of the fathers of the desert of Scete, who met to discuss an important matter. Now it was the practice of the older fathers to test the humility of younger members. Moses was not spared. When he took his place among the rest some members of the convention stood up and exclaimed aloud: "What business has a Negro here?" Moses knowing this to be a trial, kept silent. Afterwards those hermits who had treated him so contemptuously, sought him out and explained their intention and asked what he had thought about it. Moses replied: "My thoughts were on Jesus as He stood before Pilate and kept His peace."

On another occasion the hermits met to judge a guilty brother. But Moses was not among them. Father Isidore sent a hermit to Moses to tell him the fathers were waiting for him. Moses took a basket filled with sand and entered the assembly bearing this burden. Looking at the puzzled faces of the fathers he said to them: "I have to bear the heavy burden of my own sins, how shall I dare to judge the sins of another?" No one spoke a word against the guilty brother.

The hermits were always asking the good advice of Moses and he likewise desired theirs. He often said to the brethren: "If a man does not truly look upon himself as a sinner, the Lord will not hear his prayer."

"And who is it that truly looks upon himself as a sinner?" asked a young hermit.

"He who always looks at his own sins and not at his neighbor's," replied Moses.

The contrast between what Moses had been and what he was now gave Moses a great popularity in the eyes of the world. Everyone was speaking about this hermit who had begun as a robber and ended as a holy hermit. But attributing his conversion to the grace of God alone Moses said: "When you praise me you scourge me." The greatest favor that could be done him was to warn him of visitors. He would hurry away and only his empty cell could be found.

Once a great dignitary set out to see Moses. Moses, informed of his coming, hid himself. But the stranger lost his way among the sandhills and rocks of the desert and unexpectedly came upon the fleeing Moses.

"My father," the stranger asked, "I beg you to tell me where is the cell of the renowned Moses, the holy hermit?"

"What do you want of this man?" came the unexpected answer. "Do you not know that he often acts as a fool and a heretic? If you wish to be edified go to some of the other hermits but not to him."

The man was surprised and could not understand how Moses could be thought so much of in the world and of so little account here in the desert. So he went to visit another hermit and told how he had at first come to see the hermit Moses but had been advised not to do so. The other father was surprised to hear this, and asked the dignitary to describe the monk who had said these things.

(Continued on page 189)

BUILDING A MISSION

JOHN M. HAINES, C.S.Sp.

● Handful of Children the Hope of Hot Springs



FATHER HAINES WITH HANDS FULL OF "HOPE"

Saint Gabriel's Mission, Hot Springs, Ark., which is only an infant going on three years old, really dates back 28 years ago when Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart, a Good Shepherd nun stationed at the Monastery of Our Lady of Charity in Hot Springs, gathered about her a handful of colored children to teach them the four R's: reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic and Religion. Year after year she taught the children, hoping that someday a church could be built for colored Catholics.

In 1940 the Bishop of Little Rock, Most Rev. John B. Morris, D.D., invited the Holy Ghost Fa-

thers to take charge of the colored Catholics of Hot Springs, and the Very Rev. George J. Collins, C.S.Sp., Provincial of the Holy Ghost Fathers, appointed me to begin the new mission.

By December of the same year a neat frame church with a seating capacity of 70 persons had been erected. We also added a second classroom to the little room which Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart had been using for a school, and the attendance increased to more than 50 pupils. Other children had to be turned away for lack of space.

Due to scarcity of Sisters, the Good Shepherd Congregation is forced to discontinue teaching in our school, but in September three Sisters, Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, from Beaverville, Illinois, will assume charge of St. Gabriel's — their first school among the colored.

Convert-making in Arkansas is slow; so far nineteen converts have been baptized at St. Gabriel's — most of these have come from our school. How much more could be done if we but had a larger school! Billions are spent nowadays for destruction, and it is so difficult to get a few dollars for construction. But, please God, some day we shall have a school big enough to take care of all who seek admission.

A TIMELY SLOGAN:

**"EVERY CATHOLIC CHILD
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Hello, folks! Your old news reporter is writing this from the heart of the summer. The temperature is up around ninety-something and there isn't breeze enough to make a quaking aspen quake. So, sympathize with me, as you plow through this page of "hot" news.

Movies

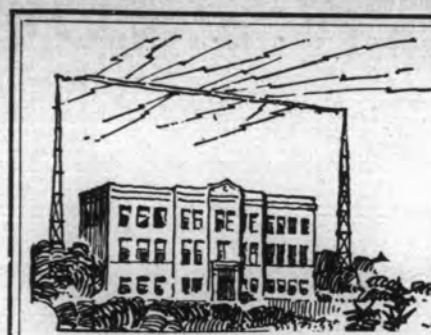
I can tell you first that the summer routine of the Seminary has been careening along with surprising monotony except for the high spots here and there that supply something different. We had, for instance, the movies. These weren't regular full-length features, but rather shorts with educational value that we took in stride, for they were often a pleasant source of recreation, instruction and entertainment. We were called together for these about three or four times this summer.

Picnics

Another source of recreational effort were the frequent picnics which we took. Up the mouth of the Jordan River, or over the surface of the broad Bay to Pine Hills, it was all in a free day for us, and a welcome interruption of the daily order. There were several outings made by the Fraters and some by the Brothers this summer. The means was our little motorboat, capable of holding eight or nine passengers. One outing made by the major seminarians, brought them home wet and miserable-looking, but with spirits still high. They had been subjected to about an hour and a half of heavy rain with no more shelter than an open porch. Yet they made home all right and were none the worse for wear the next day.

For the Poor Souls

A Solemn Requiem Mass on All Souls' Day and a Mass every day, as also the community devotions in the Seminary Chapel on Sundays, Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays will be offered during November for our deceased benefactors and for the deceased relatives and friends of our living benefactors.



Seminary

BROADCASTS

St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay
the only Catholic Negro Sem

Monastery Bound!

The biggest item on our travel list deserves a special paragraph to itself. It was our journey to Covington, La., to visit the well-known St. Joseph's Benedictine Abbey.

We arrived after most of the morning had passed, and spent the remainder enjoying the swimming pool. Then a shaded walk in the woods, which terminated in lunch, served in a wooded bower a short distance from the road. The afternoon was spent looking at the wonderful things to be seen, especially in the sacristy and church of the monastery. We met some of the Fraters and Brothers who were all very pleasant and who cheerfully spent their precious minutes making our brief sojourn among them more enjoyable.

After a small snack we again hit the trail and began our return journey, sped on our way by the cheerful adieus of the religious whom we had met.



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TRANSPLANTING A YOUNG TREE
Under the skillful direction of Fathers Baker and Schmitt, the seminarians are planting trees and add a little shade to the campus.

Seminary News

BROADCAST from

Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

the Negro Seminary in America



Feast of the Assumption

This great feast day of our Blessed Lady was spent very happily this year. There was a High Mass in the morning at eight-thirty. It was celebrated by Father Provincial. The plain chant was rendered by a choir composed of the major seminarians. The organ was played by Mr. Charles Henry, a professor at the Seminary, who also holds the additional post of organist.

Fathers' Retreat

The retreat for the Faculty of St. Augustine's Seminary began on August 22 and ended on the following Saturday. Attending this retreat were two of the missionaries, who were unable to attend the one given for them earlier in the summer. They were Father Anthony Bourges from Lafayette, La., and Father Leander Martin from St. Martinville, La. Altogether 18 Fathers made this retreat.

Welcome Visitors

St. Augustine's Seminary has played host many times the last month. Among the many visitors whom we were privileged to entertain were Rev. Fr. J. Ostendorf, pastor of St. James' Church, Decatur, Illinois; Brother Lambert, C.S.C., of St. Edward's College, Austin, Tex., and 3 other Holy Cross Brothers from their summer camp near here; Mr. Boyer of New Orleans, La., the father of Brother Peter Boyer, S.V. D.; and a group of laymen from New Orleans, La., members of the Holy Name Society of Corpus Christi Parish, who spent a day on our grounds.

New Fathers for the South

Out of last year's class of clerics ordained at Techny, St. Augustine's welcomed two to its teaching staff. Father Otto Schellenberger, S.V. D., of Lanesville, Ind., will teach Mathematics, Religion and Science, while Father John Hannaher, S.V. D., of Clinton, Iowa, will teach Latin, Geography and Astronomy.

A third member of the same class, Father Francis Kowalski, S.V. D. of Chicago, Ill., will go to our St. Peter's Mission in Pine Bluff, Ark., as assistant.



We have received news that Father John W. Bowman's father, Mr. Francis Bowman, died in Washington, D. C., on September 12. We recommend him to the prayers of our readers.



PLANTING A YOUNG OAK TREE

Baker and Schaps, the students beautify the grounds with a little shade to the campus

Wanted:

A TAILOR

Single or married man of good character. Steady employment amid pleasant religious surroundings. For further information write or apply to Rev. Father Rector, St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay Saint Louis, Miss.

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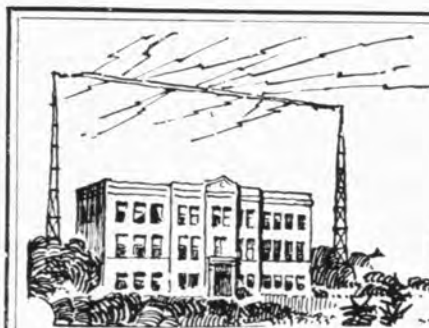
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Another source of recreational effort were the frequent picnics which we took. Up the mouth of the Jordan River, or over the surface of the broad Bay to Pine Hills, it was all in a free day for us, and a welcome interruption of the daily order. There were several outings made by the Fraters and some by the Brothers this summer. The means was our little motorboat, capable of holding eight or nine passengers. One outing made by the major seminarians, brought them home wet and miserable-looking, but with spirits still high. They had been subjected to about an hour and a half of heavy rain with no more shelter than an open porch. Yet they made home all right and were none the worse for wear the next day.

For the Poor Souls

A Solemn Requiem Mass on All Souls' Day and a Mass every day, as also the community devotions in the Seminary Chapel on Sundays, Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays will be offered during November for our deceased benefactors and for the deceased relatives and friends of our living benefactors.



Seminary

BROADCAST

St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay S

the only Catholic Negro Sem

Monastery Bound!

The biggest item on our travel list deserves a special paragraph to itself. It was our journey to Covington, La., to visit the well-known St. Joseph's Benedictine Abbey.

We arrived after most of the morning had passed, and spent the remainder enjoying the swimming pool. Then a shaded walk in the woods, which terminated in lunch, served in a wooded bower a short distance from the road. The afternoon was spent looking at the wonderful things to be seen, especially in the sacristy and church of the monastery. We met some of the Fraters and Brothers who were all very pleasant and who cheerfully spent their precious minutes making our brief sojourn among them more enjoyable.

After a small snack we again hit the trail and began our return journey, sped on our way by the cheerful adieus of the religious whom we had met.



TRANSPLANTING A YOUNG

Under the skillful direction of Fathers Baker and Sch... and add a little shade to

Seminary News

BROADCAST from

Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

The Negro Seminary in America



Feast of the Assumption

This great feast day of our Blessed Lady was spent very happily this year. There was a High Mass in the morning at eight-thirty. It was celebrated by Father Provincial. The plain chant was rendered by a choir composed of the major seminarians. The organ was played by Mr. Charles Henry, a professor at the Seminary, who also holds the additional post of organist.

Fathers' Retreat

The retreat for the Faculty of St. Augustine's Seminary began on August 22 and ended on the following Saturday. Attending this retreat were two of the missionaries, who were unable to attend the one given for them earlier in the summer. They were Father Anthony Bourges from Lafayette, La., and Father Leander Martin from St. Martinville, La. Altogether 18 Fathers made this retreat.

Welcome Visitors

St. Augustine's Seminary has played host many times the last month. Among the many visitors whom we were privileged to entertain were Rev. Fr. J. Ostendorf, pastor of St. James' Church, Decatur, Illinois; Brother Lambert, C.S.C., of St. Edward's College, Austin, Tex., and 3 other Holy Cross Brothers from their summer camp near here; Mr. Boyer of New Orleans, La., the father of Brother Peter Boyer, S.V. D.; and a group of laymen from New Orleans, La., members of the Holy Name Society of Corpus Christi Parish, who spent a day on our grounds.

New Fathers for the South

Out of last year's class of clerics ordained at Techy, St. Augustine's welcomed two to its teaching staff. Father Otto Schellenberger, S.V. D., of Lanesville, Ind., will teach Mathematics, Religion and Science, while Father John Hammaher, S.V. D., of Clinton, Iowa, will teach Latin, Geography and Astronomy.

A third member of the same class, Father Francis Kowalski, S.V. D., of Chicago, Ill., will go to our St. Peter's Mission in Pine Bluff, Ark., as assistant.



We have received news that Father John W. Bowman's father, Mr. Francis Bowman, died in Washington, D. C., on September 12. We recommend him to the prayers of our readers.



PLANTING A YOUNG OAK TREE

Baker and Schaps, the students beautify the grounds with a little shade to the campus

Wanted:

A TAILOR

Single or married man of good character. Steady employment amid pleasant religious surroundings. For further information write or apply to Rev. Father Rector, St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay Saint Louis, Miss.

Negroes Love Their Children

(Continued from page 172)

away. There are thousands upon thousands of Negro children whose parents would like to send them to school, but there is none far and wide. The parents fully realize the necessity of an education if their children are to be successful in later life and have it better than they. I remember how Catholic parents, who came to Chicago from the South, would bring their children immediately to our Catholic school so that they would not trail behind in their studies. The public schools in all Negro sections of Chicago are swamped with children and are actually forced to build new schools or add to the old ones. Even that is

not enough, for they must still run two and three shifts of schoolwork in order to give all the children a chance to spend at least four hours a day in the classrooms.

Yes, **NEGROES LOVE THEIR CHILDREN.**



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The new *Catholic Mission Digest*, published at 1234 Washington Boulevard, Detroit, Mich., is a laudable effort to arouse more interest among the laity in Catholic missionary work. The new magazine contains articles condensed from Home and Foreign Mission publications. Edited by Miss Mary T. McManus, the *Catholic Mission Digest* is a quarterly and sells for 25c the copy.



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NOW

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THE ROSARY PICTURE BOOK

GERTRUDE ANDERSON

On a beautiful October evening little Winnie Lou Green and young Alexander Jones stood on the lawn outside Julia Bryan's big yellow house looking with wondering eyes through the big bay window.

"What in the world are they doing in there, Alex?" Winnie Lou asked.

The two children had been playing hide and seek with a group of other little colored children of their own neighborhood. Winnie Lou had suddenly decided that it was much more fun just to keep right on running on such a fine evening than to bother hiding like the rest of the children. Alexander had seen Winnie Lou from his own hiding place and set out at top speed to catch the little runaway and bring her back to the game.

Racing joyously past Julia's house, Winnie Lou's quick eye had caught on a scene through the big bay window at the front of the house. She had immediately stopped running, and with Alexander close at her heels had cautiously drawn close to the big window. Now they stood there looking in. Inside the big living room, the whole Bryan family of seven children with their parents knelt before chairs about the room. The little golden-haired Julia, whom the colored children knew very well, knelt at a chair just in front of the big square window.

"Hail, Mary, full of grace! — O — O — O — Oh!" The little white girl looked up from her beads to see four big eyes looking in at her from out of the darkness. "WOLVES!" thought the child remembering her fairy stories. But then, as she stared, heads began gradually to shape around the eyes and Julia quickly recognized her little colored friends, Winnie Lou and Alexander. Glancing hastily about the room, Julia quietly slipped out the open door to the waiting children.

"Want something, Winnie Lou?" Julia asked as she approached.

"No, thank you, Julia," Winnie Lou replied. "We were playin' and ran past your house. We'd sure like to know,

though, what y'all were doing in there," Winnie Lou pointed to the window. "I thought at first that it was a real picture."

Julia then studied the scene in the window before them. "Why, it surely does look like a picture! I'm so glad you said that, Winnie Lou. We say the rosary this way every night after supper during the month of October. I get awfully fidgety and wish mother would hurry, but now I'll just think about the lovely picture we make." Julia's blue eyes sparkled at the happy thought.

"What'cha say y'all were doin'?" interrupted Alexander puzzled.

"We were saying the rosary." Julia had to laugh at the perplexed look on Alexander's dark little face. "See, these are rosary beads." And Julia held out to the children her pretty pink beads on a gold chain at the end of which hung a crucifix.

"We offer the prayers of the rosary to our Heavenly Mother Mary," Julia went on to explain. "We count these rosary prayers on the beads with our fingers while in our minds we picture certain scenes from the lives of Mary, our Heavenly Mother, and Jesus, her Divine Son."

"You know what, Winnie Lou?" exclaimed Julia, suddenly struck with a grand idea. "We can pretend that, just as you said, this picture of my family here in the window IS a real picture. We can pretend that it's a picture on a cover of a really and truly big blue picture book! Let's call it our 'ROSARY PICTURE BOOK' and the beautiful pictures inside our book will be the scenes from the lives of Mary and Jesus which we are always supposed to keep in our minds when we say the rosary. Then, as we 'turn' the pages of our magic book, we can say the 'Our Father's' and 'Hail Mary's' on our 'counting' beads! Would you like that?"

"Oh, let's do it!" cried both the children and excitedly watched the window, waiting for Julia to begin. They were very anxious to learn about the little

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Julia then gently "turned" an imaginary page, the children closely followed her with their minds. "This next picture is called 'The Visitation,' which shows Mary visiting her cousin, St. Elizabeth, after she learns that Elizabeth is to be the mother of John the Baptist. Many years later this John would baptize Jesus in the River Jor-

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OCTOBER'S SAINTS

Oct. 2 —

Guardian Angels

Today's feast is another proof of the overflowing goodness and solicitude of God for His creatures. To every human being God has assigned an Angel whose main duty is to keep us in the paths of justice and virtue. Although this feast was extended to the entire Church only in 1670, still devotion to the Guardian Angels has always been known and practiced. Remember you have a heavenly visitor constantly at your side. Speak to him, listen to and follow his advice and today thank God very sincerely for this wonderful heavenly friend, your Guardian Angel.



May there be a special place reserved at the post-war Peace Table for the King of Peace

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Oct. 15 — St. Teresa

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tireless labors. She longed to suffer for Christ and the salvation of souls. Her constant prayer to the Lord was "to suffer or to die." Pray to her and ask her to obtain for us the true spirit of sacrifice.

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St. Ursula

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With our SVD Fathers on the Colored Missions

Appointment

Father Francis Kowalski, S.V. D., a native Chicagoan who just completed his studies at St. Mary's Mission House, Techny, Ill., in June, has been appointed assistant to Father Joseph Kempinski, pastor of St. Peter's Church, Pine Bluff, Ark. Father Kowalski replaces Father Herman J. Hagen, who has been transferred to St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Miss.

First to Be Accredited

Holy Ghost High School, Jackson, Miss., was fully accredited this year by the Mississippi State Board of Education. There are seven complete colored Catholic parochial high schools in Mississippi, but Holy Ghost School is the first to receive State accreditation. Congratulations

to the justly proud principal, Father Francis Baltes, S.V. D., and the deserving Sisters, the Missionary Servants of the Holy Ghost, who have worked so hard to have their school recognized by the State.

School Addition Must Wait

Father Anthony Bourges, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lafayette, La., has been trying since last winter to get permission from the Government to add some much-needed classrooms to his school, but so far he has had no success. It seems that the extra classrooms will have to wait till after the war.

To Start New Mission

Father Cosmas Schneider has been sent to Franklin, La., at the request



HOLY GHOST HIGH SCHOOL, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
the first Negro Catholic high school in Mississippi to be accredited by the State Board of Education

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER



ST. JOHN VIANNEY'S SCHOOL, MOUTON SWITCH, LA.

Just built last year in a rural district, it is already overcrowded with an enrollment of 200 Catholic children. There are only two classrooms and two lay teachers for the seven grammar grades. The Fathers of the Divine Word hope that generous friends will help them to build more such schools in the Negro Missions of the South where they are so urgently needed

of the Bishop of Lafayette, Most Rev. Jules Jeanmard, and the pastor of the Church of the Assumption in Franklin, Rt. Rev. Monsignor J. J. Rousseau, to open a mission for the colored people in and around Franklin.

Father Schneider went to Franklin from St. Leo, La., where he had been administrator of a white parish for a little over a year. Father Matthias Braun, formerly rector of St. Paul's Mission House, Epworth, Iowa, succeeds Father Schneider at St. Leo.

Beginning New High School

Father Peter DeBoer, pastor of St. Francis' Church, Yazoo City, Miss., has succeeded in procuring two new Sisters for his school, thus bringing the total up to ten Sisters and enabling him to add the first year of high school to his rapidly growing mission school.

In May St. Francis' School held its first graduation exercises. Twenty-two boys and girls were graduated from the eighth grade. Ten of the graduates were Catholics. It was Father's desire to provide for the further Catholic education of these his first convert-graduates that led to the inauguration of the high school course.

St. Francis' School is staffed by Franciscan Sisters from Milwaukee.

VESTMENTS NEEDED

Father Martin is badly in need of some good Mass vestments for his mission church at St. John, La. For those kind friends who wish to help the address is

Rev. Leander Martin, S.V.D.
Notre Dame Church
St. Martinville, La.



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to the justly proud principal, Father Francis Baltes, S.V. D., and the deserving Sisters, the Missionary Servants of the Holy Ghost, who have worked so hard to have their school recognized by the State.

School Addition Must Wait

Father Anthony Bourges, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lafayette, La., has been trying since last winter to get permission from the Government to add some much-needed classrooms to his school, but so far he has had no success. It seems that the extra classrooms will have to wait till after the war.

To Start New Mission

Father Cosmas Schneider has been sent to Franklin, La., at the request



HOLY GHOST HIGH SCHOOL, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
the first Negro Catholic high school in Mississippi to be accredited by the State Board of Education

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER



ST. JOHN VIANNEY'S SCHOOL, MOUTON SWITCH, LA.

Just built last year in a rural district, it is already overcrowded with an enrollment of 200 Catholic children. There are only two classrooms and two lay teachers for the seven grammar grades. The Fathers of the Divine Word hope that generous friends will help them to build more such schools in the Negro Missions of the South where they are so urgently needed

of the Bishop of Lafayette, Most Rev. Jules Jeanmard, and the pastor of the Church of the Assumption in Franklin, Rt. Rev. Monsignor J. J. Rousseau, to open a mission for the colored people in and around Franklin.

Father Schneider went to Franklin from St. Leo, La., where he had been administrator of a white parish for a little over a year. Father Matthias Braun, formerly rector of St. Paul's Mission House, Epworth, Iowa, succeeds Father Schneider at St. Leo.

Beginning New High School

Father Peter DeBoer, pastor of St. Francis' Church, Yazoo City, Miss., has succeeded in procuring two new Sisters for his school, thus bringing the total up to ten Sisters and enabling him to add the first year of high school to his rapidly growing mission school.

In May St. Francis' School held its first graduation exercises. Twenty-two boys and girls were graduated from the eighth grade. Ten of the graduates were Catholics. It was Father's desire to provide for the further Catholic education of these his first convert-graduates that led to the inauguration of the high school course.

St. Francis' School is staffed by Franciscan Sisters from Milwaukee.

VESTMENTS NEEDED

Father Martin is badly in need of some good Mass vestments for his mission church at St. John, La. For those kind friends who wish to help the address is

Rev. Leander Martin, S.V.D.
Notre Dame Church
St. Martinville, La.

DISPEL THE DARKNESS!

RUTH TAYLOR

"We are living in the dawn of a New Day and we decline to remain in darkness."

This sentence from the Five Freedoms statement of the Negroes expresses what must be wanted by and for all people. There is no color line between Negro and White in ideals or goals. We cannot remain in darkness nor must the world go backward once the war is won by the United Nations. Times have changed for all of us, and all the people of all the earth must live as free men in the light.

There is no darkness but ignorance. I read once that those who live on the mountains have a longer day than those who live in the valley. Sometimes all we need to brighten our day is to raise ourselves a little higher.

This is a truism which can be put into effect for all of us. For this is the way we must climb out of the darkness. We cannot wait for someone to dispel it for us, for light that can be turned on and off is never permanent light. Everything we learn, everything we do right, helps to destroy the darkness for all

time. We can demand opportunities for which we are prepared far more successfully than we can when we are not yet ready for them. It is really just the same as it is with jobs — you know how much easier it is to get a job when you already have one.

Only through education can we go ahead. This does not mean just technical education, important though it is. It means education of the spirit as well as of the mind. We will reach the heights of light, not through clinging to old antagonisms and hatreds, not by pressure or legislation, but by working together with our fellowmen in sympathy and in understanding, standing up for what is right and doing as we would be done by.

The one real hope for the future is a recognition of our common humanity, of our common struggle to rise above our old selves, of the common ideals of all men of good will. True we will find obstacles, but understanding and hard work will get us over them. And we will climb at last to the height where there is no darkness.

TO MY GUARDIAN ANGEL

ARTHUR C. WINTERS, S.V. D.

I have walked close to you today,
Friend of my soul;
Christ's way may be the narrow way;
And mind and flesh may break my sway
And weak control;
But just today with firm and glad command
I held them tight in hand.

I have fought hard and you close by,
Angel of light,
Have lent the vision of your eye,
And strength of arm, against the sly
Enemy's might;
And now, with battled heart and weary smile
I pause in prayer awhile.

I have not walked with you in vain;
Angel and Friend;
Whether my road was rough or plane,
Your wing was shelter from the rain
From start to end;
Now, mindful of the hours we have been through,
I thank God, thanking you.

Saint Moses, Negro Hermit

(Continued from page 178)

"He was tall, dark, and clothed in a threadbare habit."

"That was Moses himself," said the father.

On another occasion Moses had visitors of a different kind. Four wicked men, former companions who lived by robbery, hated Moses for his change of life. Their evil consciences saw a reproach in his repentance. Wishing to revenge themselves on him they attacked him one night. But the old giant within Moses was dead only to sin. He overpowered these bandits, bound them and dragged them to the church, where he addressed the priest thus: "Good Father, I am not allowed to punish these men who violently assaulted me in my cell. Tell me what you wish me to do with them." The simple goodness of Moses caused the robbers to repent of their sins and to be converted to a penitential life.

The Roman Martyrology recounts that this holy Negro Saint converted many of his former robber band and led them to penance in the desert.

The holy hermits were ever anxious to avoid every honor and especially the priesthood. In humility they considered themselves too sinful to accept this dignity. Moses in his old age, however, had to submit to the Patriarch of Alexandria, who ordained him to the priesthood.

Moses was 65 years old when the Desert of Scete was overrun by the savage tribe of the Mazics. When these barbarians came to the cell of Moses they found him and other monks waiting in prayer. All were

killed. This was about the year 395.

Thus ended the eventful life of Saint Moses, the Negro hermit, priest and martyr. His feast is celebrated on August 28.

Holy Ghost Sisters' Jubilee

(Continued from page 175)

Texas

Beaumont: Our Lady of Mercy School; 4 Sisters, 150 pupils.

Corpus Christi: Holy Cross School; 4 Sisters, 136 pupils.

Dallas: St. Peter's Academy (Grade and High School); 8 Sisters, 455 pupils.

Fort Worth: Mother of Mercy School; 4 Sisters, 200 pupils.

San Antonio: St. Catherine's School; 2 Sisters, 92 pupils.

San Antonio: St. Peter Claver's Academy (Grade and High School); 9 Sisters, 388 pupils.

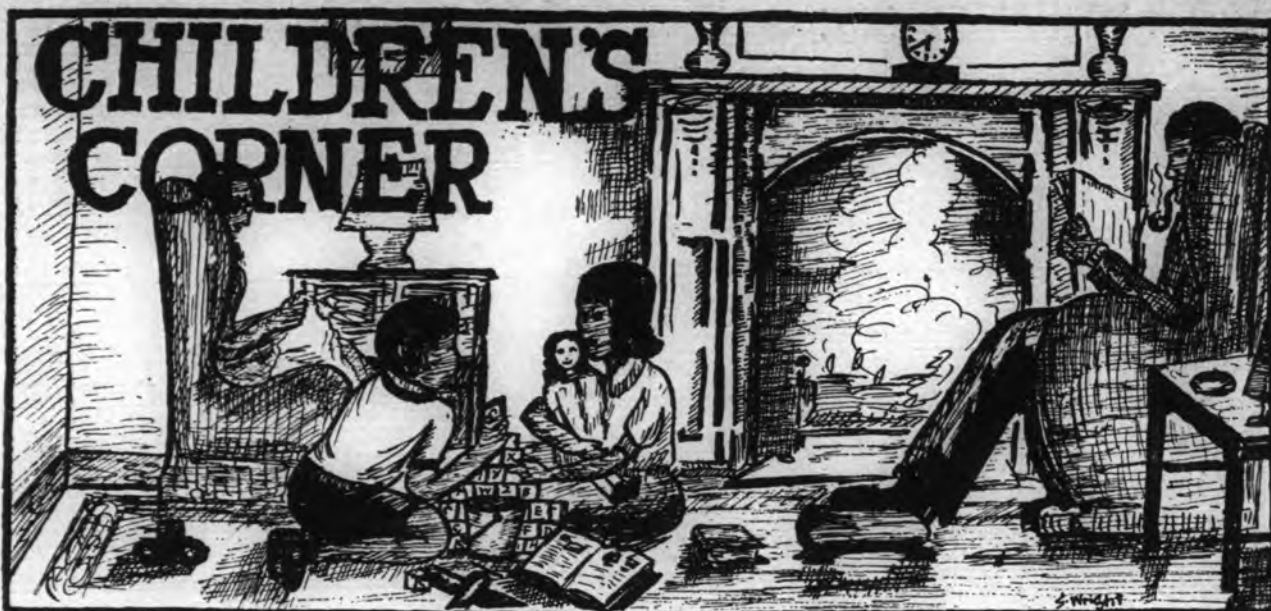
MISSION CLUB NEWS

Scholarship Club of Chicago, one of the very active Mission Clubs rendering financial aid to the mission work of the Society of the Divine Word, recently presented a pageant entitled "Priests and Sisters of Tomorrow" in St. Anselm's Parish Hall.

First prize was won by Miss Emma Galvin of Corpus Christi Parish; second prize went to Miss Rita Watkins; third prize to Miss Mildred McNarry of Holy Name of Mary Parish.

Mrs. Cora Wendell, president of Scholarship Club, announced that the pageant was a great success, and that the total receipts of \$514.32 have been sent to St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay Saint Louis, Miss., for the education of colored boys to the priesthood.

St. Augustine's Seminary takes this occasion to thank publicly the kind officers and members of Scholarship Club for this and many other generous donations.



My dear Boys and Girls:

On the second day of this month we celebrate the Feast of the Guardian Angels. The dear God loves us so much that He has given to each one of us a special Guardian Angel to watch over us, to protect and guide us on the right way to Heaven.

Just think, your special Guardian Angel has been with you since you were born. Never once has he left you, and he never will leave you until you die and stand before God to be judged as a saint or as a sinner.

Surely, therefore, since God gave you this Angel to help you, you ought to ask him again and again to help you to be good. Get into the habit of praying to your Guardian Angel every day, and especially whenever a temptation bothers you.

Here is a nice little prayer to your Guardian Angel. Learn it by heart and say it often:

*Angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom His love commits me here,
Ever this day be at my side,
To light and guard, to rule and guide.
Amen.*

And do not forget that October is the Month of the Rosary. Try to say the rosary, or at least a part of it, every day, especially for the soldiers on the battlefield and for peace.

MY MAIL BAG

Dear Father Howard: I just received the **ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER**, and as usual I read all the interesting articles, which

includes everything from cover to cover, even the advertisements. However, I was greatly impressed by a certain letter in the **CHILDREN'S CORNER**, and even though I am not acquainted with the writer, please accept the inclosed amount as a subscription for Miss Mary Payne, Grade 8, Immaculate Conception School, LeBeau, La.

Beseeching Almighty God to bless and preserve the good work of the Fathers of the Society of the Divine Word, and asking you to please remember me in your prayers as well, I remain yours sincerely,

J.H.F.
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Father Howard: My brother has subscribed to the **ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER** for a long time now, and since we live in the same house with my mother and father I had not found it necessary to subscribe.

However, I read in your **CHILDREN'S CORNER** a letter from Mary Payne (Grade 8) Immaculate Conception School, LeBeau, La.; and she expressed the wish to receive the **MESSENGER** regularly. I will be glad if you will allow me to pay for one year's subscription for her. The money is enclosed. Thank you! Yours truly,

M.M.
Louisville, Ky.

PS.: I enjoy reading **ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER** very much, and though I have written this as a postscript, it nevertheless does not lessen my enjoyment of the magazine.

The above two letters were received from grown-ups who have big and kind hearts. Both letters came on the same day, and they made me feel mighty fine. When I informed Mary that these two kind-hearted persons had paid for her subscription for two years to come, this is the answer I received:

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

Dear Father Howard: I thank you for your letter and I also thank Miss M. and Mr. F. for the money they sent you for a 2-year subscription for me. I wrote to them and thanked them. Oh, I was so delighted to receive the MESSENGER, and I hope that I will continue on. I think that this is a good magazine; the stories are very interesting.

Today is the First Friday of the month. I went to Mass this morning; I am making the First Fridays, and I have already made six. I am praying for you and your work, Father.

Father Reichmeyer is well. I hope you will come and visit us again soon. Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mary Payne, Grade 9
Immaculate Conception School
LeBeau, La.

Well, Mary, we are all happy together now. Your two new friends are happy because they have made you happy. You are happy because you receive the MESSENGER. I am happy because you are happy because they have made you happy. Now, now, I am afraid that's rather complicated, but I think you will understand. Thanks for your prayers. Keep up the good habit of attending Mass on the First Friday, and study hard in school this year so that you may go another step higher in June.

Dear Father Howard: Just a few lines to let you know I always remember you in my prayers. Please pray for my special intention.

Was your Mission in Chicago a success? I hope it was.

Well, I will close; I wrote this card during recess. We hope to see you soon. Yours truly,

Jamie White
St. Mary's Academy
New Orleans, La.

Thanks for your prayers; I will recommend your special intention to the dear Lord. The people responded to the Mission very nicely. I was glad to receive your thoughtful card, but I wonder what Sister would say if she knew that you spend your recess writing post cards?

Dear Father Howard: I am enclosing \$2.00 as I want to renew my subscription to the MESSENGER, which I enjoy reading very much, and I would also like for you to say a Mass for my grandaunt, Mrs. Eleonore La-lonier, who died a year ago.

My mother and I were planning a trip to Bay Saint Louis and we were going to visit the Seminary. She now has arthritis and we will have to put the trip off. Kindly remem-

ber us in your prayers sometime, and I will pray for you and ask God to bless you in your work. Your little friend,

Jean Marie Zimmerman, age 12
1510 St. Anthony Street
New Orleans, La.

Glad you like the MESSENGER enough to renew your subscription. I said the Mass for your grandaunt as you requested. It was very thoughtful of you to have the Mass said. This will benefit the soul of your grandaunt more than just putting flowers on her grave. Hope your mother is better. Sorry you didn't make the trip to the Seminary, but maybe you'll make it another time.

Dear Father Howard: How are you? We are all fine, and hope you are the same. We're very, very sorry we didn't get around to writing before now. We have been working very hard with our schoolwork. We received the magazines and were more than glad to get them. We read them over and over.

This is what we do during meetings. Well, we have meetings every other Saturday from one house to another. Well, the first thing we do is to say prayers; and the little pictures you sent (remember?), we always say that prayer that is on the back of those pictures, and we always pray for you, Father Wade and Father Martin and your missionaries. Anyway, then we sing our club song, which is "Lovely Lady Dressed in Blue." Then the secretary reads the minutes of the previous meeting; and after I get through, the treasurer collects the dues, which are five cents a meeting.

Then we talk about plenty different things, and in about the middle of the meeting refreshment is served. And we begin where we left off, talking and suggesting. Then at three o'clock (we have meeting from 1 to 3) we say our prayer and sing our club song. Then we get our hats and coats to go home and we say "Goodbye" about thirty times. All you can hear is "Goodbye" and more "Goodbye's," and finally there is a final "Goodbye."



ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

You know, when we organized this Missionary Club we thought that we would make some priest happy, which was what we wanted to do. We have been wanting to make friends with you and some other colored priests. So now we are all good friends in Christ.

The first anniversary of the starting of our club was on Easter. On Easter Monday we had a Mass said for our intentions and for thanksgiving for the success we have been having. Father Brambrink reserved the front pew for us Junior Missionaries and we went to Communion together. We wore our badges, and each of us made a little dink for ourselves which we wore; they are green and white. (Dinks are little hats if you don't know. Do you know now?)

On St. Patrick's Day we went to Mass and Communion in honor of St. Patrick. The reason is because our club colors are GREEN and white.

Father Smith is now in New Jersey, and oh, how we miss him and wish he was still here. We hope someday you will come to take his place.

Well, Father, I haven't got anymore to say, so I guess I'd better close now. We will try to write again soon. Please excuse the writing and mistakes. Luck and happiness to you. Remember us in your prayers, please. God be with you and watch over you! Your friends,

The Junior Missionaries
Bernadette Llorens, age 13, Secretary
3736 Wabash Avenue
Chicago, Ill.

PS.: I won't be writing anymore; my sister Katherine will do the writing. She is our new secretary.

My, my, Bernadette, are you sure you didn't forget anything? I do not think there is much left for me to say, except this: I don't know of any better way to celebrate an anniversary than by going to Mass and Communion. Thanks for all your letters; I really enjoyed them, and I'll be waiting to hear from your sister Katherine.

MISSION-GRAPH CONTEST

Here is a swell Mission-graph for this month. Read it and see how you like it:

Mother of Mercy Mission

Our Mother of Mercy Church, Ames, Texas, formerly called Sacred Heart Church, was built in 1913 for the colored Catholics of Ames and surrounding places. The church was very small, so in 1929 a new and larger church was built.

The first pastor was Father M. L. Gumbleton. Our present pastor is Father John Doyle, S.S.J., and assistant Father Wilson.

Two mission churches have been built in the past 4 years in Dayton and Raywood, Tex., with our church being the main church. Mass is said at these churches every Sunday.

The church lawn is large and beautiful. The pastor's home is next to the church, and our school has 3 rooms in which we are taught. Three Holy Family Sisters teach us and one cooks.

Most of the people in our parish are farmers and are greatly helping the war effort. The people and the priest work together in putting over programs and other entertainment to raise money for the church.

I am studying hard to graduate in 1944. There are 14 pupils in my class.

Roland Wells, age 12
Box 83, Liberty, Tex.
(Mother of Mercy School)

For this fine Mission-graph Roland will get the MESSENGER free for a year. Now, I am sure there are other boys and girls who can write winning Mission-graphs, too. Write one like Roland's about some other Colored Mission church, maybe your own. Sign your name, age, address, grade and school, and perhaps you will be the lucky one next time.



Say the rosary sometimes for the 50,000 children in the Colored Mission schools, about one-third of whom are not Catholic. And don't forget me in your prayers.

FATHER HOWARD, S.V. D.
Bay Saint Louis, Miss.

REMEMBER OUR FRIENDS

"It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead..." (2 Mac. 12:46)

In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Sister Louise Coleman of the Daughters of Charity; died at Hotel Dieu Hospital, New Orleans, La., July 19, 1943; age 54 years. 35 years a Sister.

Mr. Isaac Martin; died in Grand Coteau, La., June 14, 1943.

Mrs. Josephine Thompson; died in Chicago, Ill., June 15, 1943.

May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



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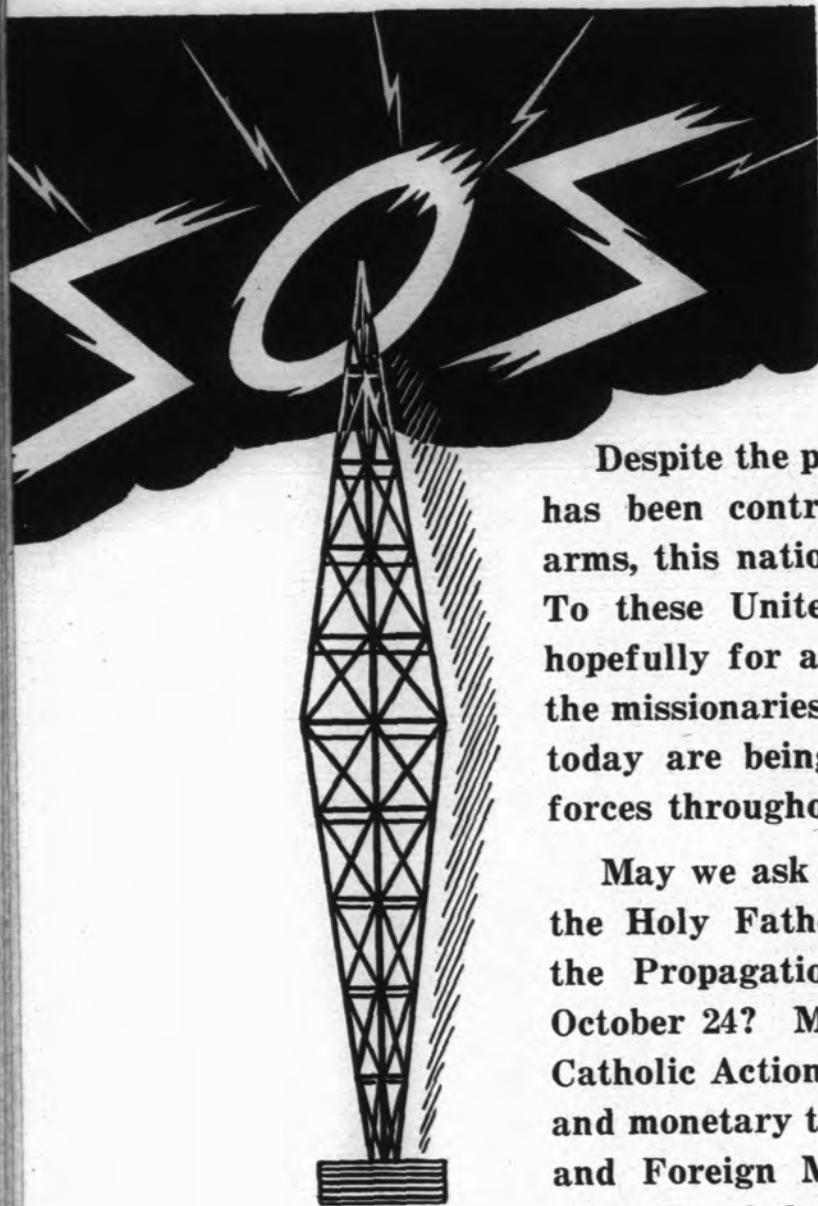
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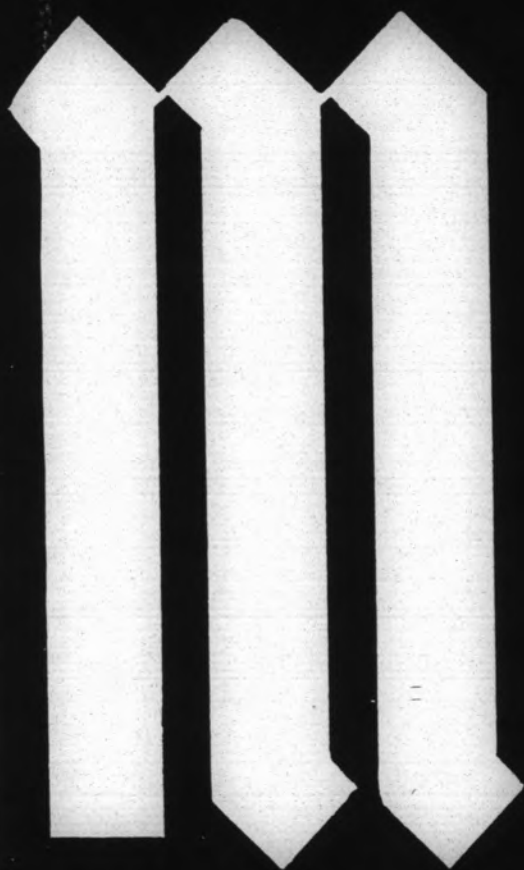
Despite the present global warfare, to which America has been contributing the utmost in manpower and arms, this nation constitutes the hope of the missions. To these United States the Sovereign Pontiff looks hopefully for a continuation of the aid which permits the missionaries to pursue their Christlike labors, which today are being seen and appreciated by our armed forces throughout the world.

May we ask our readers to help fulfill the wishes of the Holy Father by contributing to The Society for the Propagation of the Faith on Mission Sunday, October 24? Make this a day of real prayer and true Catholic Action for the Missions by creating a spiritual and monetary treasury for them. Remember that Home and Foreign Missions will be aided by your charity since 9% of the funds received will be used for work in the Near East, 40% for the furtherance of the home apostolate and 51% for endeavor in the foreign field. For further details contact your Diocesan Director of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

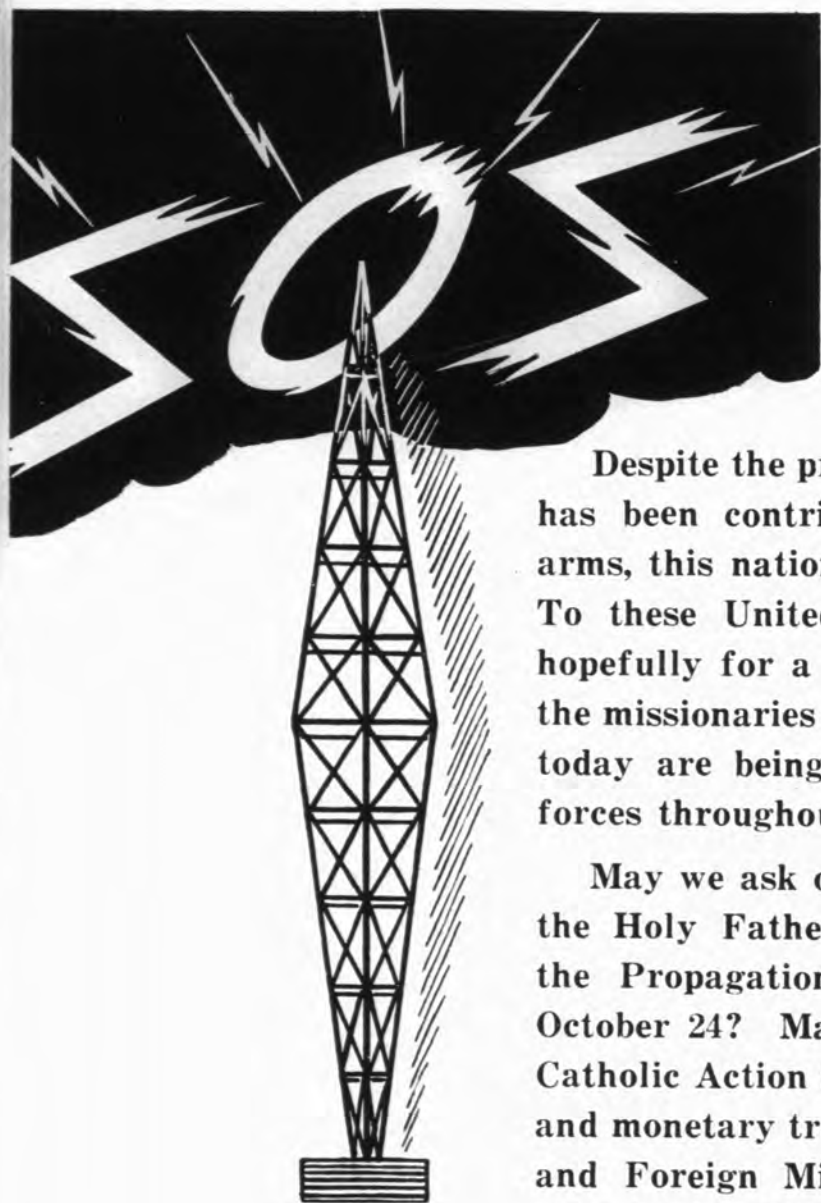
MISSION SUNDAY — OCTOBER 24

BE GENEROUS

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COOKING CREOLE GUMBO IN ONE OF THE LOUISIANA MISSIONS



For the **Missions!**

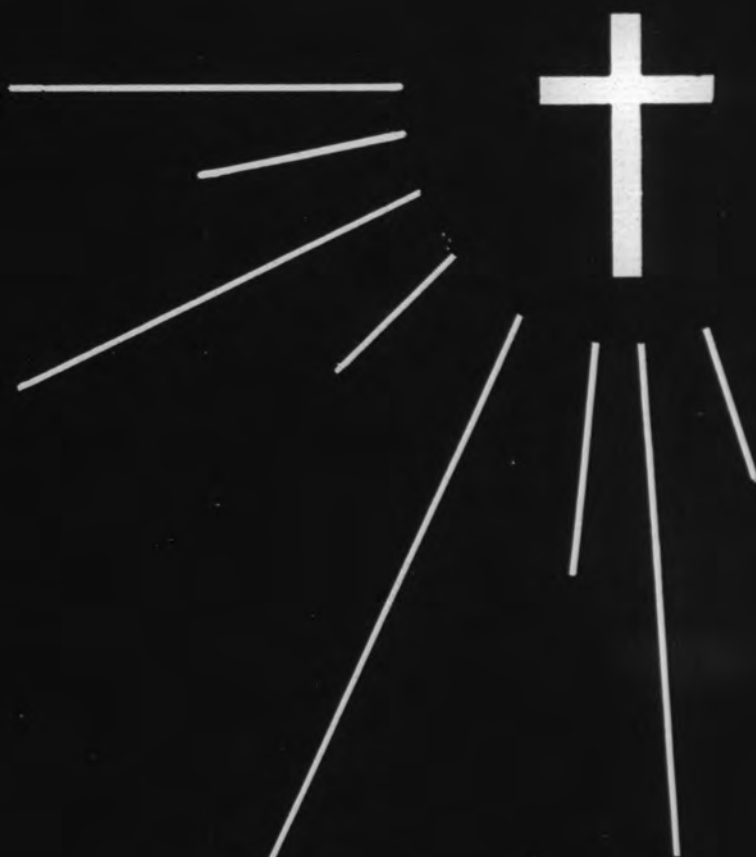
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MISSION SUNDAY — OCTOBER 24

BE GENEROUS

St. Augustine's



COOKING CREOLE GUMBO IN ONE OF THE LOUISIANA MISSIONS

MILLIONS OF SOULS TO BE SAVED !

MORE AND MORE PRIESTS ARE NEEDED
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CATHOLIC EDUCATION *St. Augustine's* MUTUAL COOPERATION
MESSENGER

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEGRO CLERGY

A Catholic Negro magazine, published monthly, except July, at Techny, Illinois, by St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Subscription \$1.00 a year. Proceeds are used for the education of colored students for the priesthood.

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Editor: CLARENCE J. HOWARD, S.V.D.
ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

Volume XXI

NOVEMBER, 1943

Number 9

Editorial: THE EDMUNDITE FATHERS

This year the Fathers of the Society of St. Edmund are commemorating the 100th year of their founding and the 50th year of their establishment in the United States.

The Society of St. Edmund was founded in 1843 in Pontigny, France, by the Very Rev. Pierre Boyer. In 1893, because of the anti-religious laws which were then in force in France, seven of the Edmundite Fathers and novices came to the United States and established their Society in Vermont. Today they number 53 priests, 10 professed clerics, 10 novices, 59 seminarians and 6 lay Brothers. The Very Rev. V. F. Nicolle, S.S.E., one of the original band of seven who came to this country 50 years ago, is the Superior General with headquarters in Randolph, Vermont.

The Edmundite Fathers began working in the Negro Missions ten years ago when they took over St.

Rose of Lima's Church, Mon Louis, Ala., and St. Philip's Chapel, Belle Fontaine, Ala. Since then the Fathers have built St. Elizabeth's Church and School in Selma, Ala.; St. Catherine's Church and School in Elizabeth City, N. C.; and All Saints Church in Anniston, Ala. They have also opened a school in Mon Louis, and with the aid of an automobile and a trailer they give instructions and sometimes say Mass in Fowl River, Ala.

Not only do the Fathers of St. Edmund have nine of their priests laboring in the Colored Missions, but they also have at least one colored seminarian preparing for the priesthood as a professed member of their Society.

To the Society of St. Edmund on their 100th Anniversary our congratulations for work well done, and our earnest prayers for continued faithful service in the Vineyard of the Lord. *Ad multos annos!*

ON THE NEGRO MISSION FRONT...



NEW COLORED MISSION SCHOOL

Father Otto Krische, O.F.M., pastor of St. Peter Claver's Mission in Wichita, Kans., has opened a Catholic school this year in a building which was formerly an African Methodist Episcopal church. Two Sisters, Adorers of the Precious Blood, conduct the school, which is their first Negro Mission school

New Mission in Alabama

Rev. Harold Purcell, C.P., former editor of *The Sign* and founder of the City of St. Jude near Montgomery, Ala., purchased an old building in North Montgomery during the spring of the year with the idea of starting a Colored Mission in that section of the city. After much hard labor spent in renovating the building inside and out, the new Mission was opened in September.

Nazareth Mission, as it is called, includes a small chapel, clinic and two classrooms under one roof. Two Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (Des Plaines, Ill.) teach the first four grammar grades in the two-room school. A priest of the Congregation of the Resurrection is in charge of the Mission.

Colored Sisters in Orangeburg, South Carolina

Three Oblate Sisters of Providence (Baltimore, Md.) came to Orangeburg, S. C., in September to take up mission work in the new Christ the King Mission which was started last year by the Redemptorist Fathers. There is as yet no school, but the Sisters are busy teaching Christian Doctrine, sewing and cooking to the children, and doing social service work in the neighborhood. Rev. Thomas J. Gilhooly, C.S.S.R., the pastor, was able to purchase a neat two-story residence as a convent for the Sisters.

Orangeburg is 80 miles from Charleston where the Oblate Sisters conduct Immaculate Conception School. There 14 Sisters teach 640 pupils in the grammar grades and high school.

Another Church in Cleveland

St. Edward's Church, cor. Woodland Ave. and East 69th St., Cleveland, Ohio, has been turned over to the Precious Blood Fathers for the use of the Colored Catholics in the neighborhood. The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (Cornwells Heights, Pa.) will conduct the attached school.

Rev. Melchior Lochtefeld, C.P.P.S., pastor of the Church of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, which has been serving the Colored Catholics of Cleveland for many years, has been appointed pastor of St. Edward's also. Together with two assistants Father Lochtefeld will take care of the two churches and a chapel which is located in another part of the city.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

DESTROYED BY FIRE

The church and school of St. Joseph's Colored Mission, New Bern, N. C., were destroyed by fire this year. The pastor, Father Julian Endler, C.P., is trying hard to rebuild at least a part of the Mission for the use of his poor people



Bishop Kelley's Jubilee

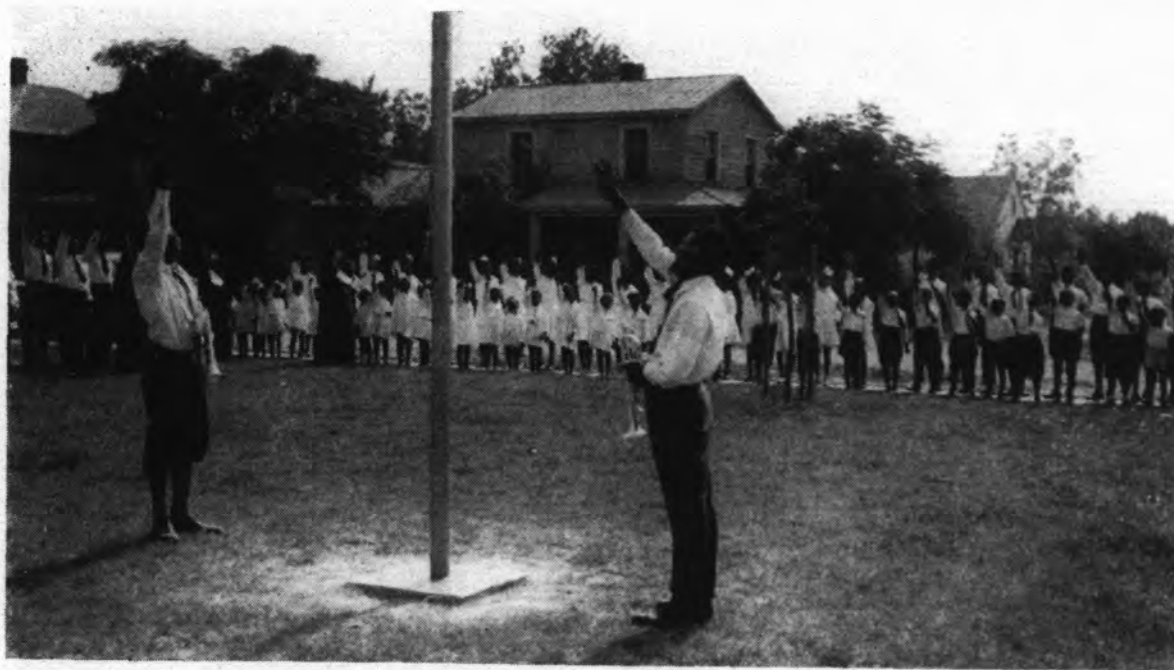
Most. Rev. Francis C. Kelley, D.D., Bishop of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, celebrated the 50th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on August 24. Bishop Kelley was consecrated as the second Bishop of Oklahoma in 1924.

Under Bishop Kelley's jurisdiction there are 2,500 Colored Catholics, with 8 churches and 4 schools, the combined enrollments of which total 865. Last year conversions in these Missions amounted to 204.

Claver College, the second Colored Catholic college in the United States, is located in Guthrie, Okla.

Mission in a Tent

Rev. Fred Gilbert, O.M.I., came to Valdosta, Ga., in August to lay the foundation for a Negro Mission at the request of the Most Rev. Gerald P. O'Hara, D.D., Bishop of Savannah-Atlanta. Since it is impossible to build until after the duration, Father Gilbert procured a large tent in which to hold services.



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

is made every day by the 175 pupils of Mother of Mercy Mission, Washington, North Carolina. The school is conducted by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Scranton, Pa.)

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**ST. JAMES' SCHOOL
PRICHARD, ALA.,**
is the sixth Negro Mission school to be staffed by Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Five Sisters take care of the school and the Zimmer Memorial Home, which houses 30 colored orphans



The property on which the Mission will later be built is the gift of a non-Catholic white landowner.

Sisters Follow Lead of Resurrectionists

The Sisters of the Resurrection (Chicago), following the lead of the Resurrectionist Fathers who entered the Colored Mission field last year, took up their first mission work among Negroes in September when they began teaching in St. Mary Magdalen's Mission School, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Dominican Sisters in the Negro Apostolate

This fall the Dominican Sisters of the Congregation of the Most Holy Rosary (Sinsinawa, Wis.) took over their fourth Colored Catholic school when 8 Sisters began teaching in the Most Pure Heart of Mary School, Mobile, Ala. With the help of 5 lay teachers, the Sisters have enrolled 715 pupils in the grammar grades and high school.

Four Dominican Sisters conduct St. Benedict the Moor High School in Omaha, Nebr. Three Sisters

teach in St. Peter Claver's School, Oklahoma City, Okla., and five others are in Blessed Martin de Porres' Mission School, Columbia, S. C. Three Dominican Sisters are engaged in social service work in the Parish of the Mother of God, Cincinnati, Ohio. This gives a total of 23 Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa in the Colored Mission work.



MONSIGNOR HAAS APPOINTED BISHOP

Right Rev. Monsignor Francis J. Haas, dean of the Catholic University's School of Social Sciences and chairman (since last May) of the Fair Employment Practices Committee, has been appointed Bishop of Grand Rapids, Mich. *The Catholic Herald Citizen* of Milwaukee, Wis. (October 9), says of this appointment:

"Msgr. Haas has attained recognition because of his championship of the rights of labor and has frequently been attacked because of his stand on social questions. His appointment as well as other similar ones made recently give recognition that the Church exists, not to save capitalism for the capitalists, but to save the souls of men whether they be communists, capitalists, or white, yellow or black."

Catholic Action Group at Texas College



This is the nucleus of the Catholic Students' Group at Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College, Prairie View, Texas. Since there are only about fifty Catholics among the 1,100 Negro students at the college, this little group banded together under the patronage of Blessed Martin de Porres in order to seek out the Catholic students, keep them together, hold religious discussions, study clubs, instructions, and so forth.

Rev. Herman J. Vincent, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Hempstead, Texas, is chaplain of the group. Father takes a great interest in their efforts, coming out to the college several times a week to instruct, guide and advise them, and he celebrates Mass for them at Prairie View College every other Sunday, although he has three other mission

churches to care for besides his parish church in Hempstead. On the other Sundays the Catholic students go to Hempstead for Mass, sometimes even walking the six miles between Prairie View and Hempstead if transportation is not available.

Moving spirit behind the group is Miss M. L. Hood (*top row, third from right*), the only Catholic on the faculty of over 100 teachers. President of the group, Aloysius Wickliff (*second row, extreme right*), and secretary, Luther Wells (*first row, third from left*), are both good Catholic Actionists and ranking honor students. The Dean of Women, Miss M. E. Suarez (*first row, extreme right*), though not a Catholic, is a devoted friend of the group and has rendered its students valuable aid.

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POPE PIUS XI

and the Training of a Negro Clergy

VERY REV. JOSEPH F. ECKERT, S.V. D.

- Thoughts on the Progress
- of the Last Two Decades

It was on the 16th of September, 20 years ago that St. Augustine's Seminary was solemnly dedicated. I recall how the day of dedication was one of deep joy, not only for the little community which had moved to Bay Saint Louis, Miss., from the temporary quarters and "try-out" at Greenville, Miss., but also for the colored people throughout the country. It meant an achievement so great and far-reaching for the Negro Mission Work of the Church that only future generations will be able to evaluate this courageous step of the Society of the Divine Word and reap the abundant harvest of souls. It manifested in a tangible way the maternal and loving care of the Church for the colored Catholic people. It gave them hope that some of their sons would soon be seen as priests of God, praying and offering up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the altar, or standing in the pulpit expounding eloquently the ever old and yet new doctrines of our Holy Faith. It brought to naught once for all the scornful attacks from many Negro leaders and enemies of the Church who maintained that the Church flagrantly violated the spirit of Christ in the very sanctuary by barring Negro youths from the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

In earlier years, when I was pastor of St. Monica's Church on the

South Side of Chicago, my own good parishioners often asked me:

"Father, are we ever going to have our own priests, like our good and unforgettable Father Tolton?" who was the first American Negro priest and first pastor of St. Monica's Parish.

Outstanding Negro leaders with whom I discussed the Catholic Church with the hope of winning them over, would invariably ask this question, often in a tone of bitter sarcasm:

"If you Catholics claim to be so much interested in us Negroes, why do you not have any priests of our Race? Our Protestant churches have their own ministers and people flock to them. Why not your Church?"

These were truly embarrassing moments! However, since the existence of St. Augustine's Seminary, I have rarely been asked such stinging questions.

St. Augustine's Seminary has given new life to our Negro Mission Work. It has engendered greater zeal and energy in our veteran missionaries among the colored people who had prayed and hoped for a long time that colored priests soon would join their ranks in the tremendous task of bringing the American Negro into the Church. Being so close to the pulse of the Negro, they were keenly sensitive to the necessity of a Negro Clergy.

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HIS HOLINESS, POPE PIUS XI

Their thoughts and desires were the same as those so well and impressively expressed by our late Holy Father, Pius XI, the Pope of the Missions, in the special letter which he wrote on April 5, 1923, to the Superior General of the Society of the Divine Word, the Very Reverend William Gier, S.V. D., D.D., on the occasion of the opening of St. Augustine's Seminary:

In your new undertaking you are following the very principle which, in so far as circumstances allowed, has always guided the Catholic Church. To this mother has arisen, especially in recent times, a numerous progeny among the black races. . . . If, therefore, we wish to accomplish some useful and solid work in this field, it is indispensable that priests of the same race shall make it their life-task to lead these peoples to the Christian faith and to a higher cultural level. You, beloved son, regard it as a very practical step to admit to the Society of the Divine Word Negroes who give evidence of a vocation for the regular life. These candidates are later to be admitted to the priesthood, and eventually work as apostles among the mem-

bers of their race. You have chosen this path because you are firmly convinced that the Negroes can thus be brought much more easily and rapidly into the Church, and also because, in the spirit of true filial obedience, you wish to follow the guidance of Our immediate Predecessor. In his Apostolic Brief of November 30, 1919, the latter gives a list of practical suggestions and precepts to which no reasonable man can take exception. For does it not indeed follow, as Our Predecessor points out, from the very nature of the Church as a Divine institution, that every tribe or people should have priests who are one with it in race and character, in habit of thought and temperament? Aside from the fact that such priests will find a friendly welcome, will they not also prove far more effective in leading their brethren into, and confirming them in, the faith than any priests of a different race and from another country? Moreover, as experience has shown, the young Negro is not poorly gifted mentally, so that he cannot assimilate higher education and the theological sciences — and the latter, not in a superficial and abbreviated form, but, as Our Predecessor demanded, in the full courses as prescribed. . . .

In order that your success may be all the more gratifying, you will pray with Us to Our Divine Savior that the Negro youth may hear and obey His divine injunction: "Go ye also into My vineyard."

Pope Pius XI was always intensely interested in the progress of St. Augustine's Seminary. He rejoiced when he heard of the first ordination in May, 1934. When in June, 1928, I had the extraordinary privilege of having an audience with him, one of his first questions was: "How is St. Augustine's Seminary getting along? Tell the Fathers that I am much interested in them

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and specially bless them and their colored pupils."

"Go ye also into My vineyard!" Negro youth has followed the invitation of Christ. 342 *colored boys* at one time or other have made an attempt to study at St. Augustine's Seminary, where the standards are the same as in any of our seminaries the world over. Most of them have dropped out in the course of 14 long years of studies, either for lack of talents, health, or of good character and virtues, so necessary for every priest.

Only a few weeks ago 17 new candidates were admitted so that our high-school department has today 53 students, the largest number in the history of St. Augustine's Seminary. Nine students are in the Novitiate and Juniorate at St. Mary's Mission House, Techny, Illinois; 8 students are in the Major Seminary. One will soon be ordained a priest on the Feast of the Epiphany, the

6th of January, 1944.

God has signally blessed the work. What was expected to be a failure, has turned out to be a success. Eighteen Negro youths have reached their goal, the Holy Priesthood, and are laboring among their own people here and in the Lafayette Diocese and even as missionaries in British West Africa.

However, the work at St. Augustine's Seminary needs the prayers and the generous help of all our good friends, if it is to continue to progress and to succeed. On the occasion of the meeting of the Catholic Committee of the South in May, 1943, one veteran missionary of the South made this pertinent remark when speaking about our Seminary: "Father, your work at the Seminary is so important that upon its success or failure our Mission Work among the Negroes stands or falls." These words are still ringing loud in my ears. How true they are!

A Message from the President

Men of all races — black, brown, white and yellow — fight beside us for freedom. We cannot stand before the world as a champion of oppressed peoples unless we practice as well as preach the principles of Democracy for all men. Racial conflict diminishes war production, cuts down the flow of guns and planes and increases the toll of American lives. Racial strife destroys national unity at home and renders us suspect abroad.

Ours is a two-fold responsibility. All true Americans must be prepared to protect with life itself the inalienable rights of all men without regard to race, creed or color. All true Americans also must increasingly accept the responsibilities that go with democratic privileges.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT
President of the United States
September, 1943

NEGRO POLICEMEN

110 cities and towns in 29 of the 48 States of this country and in the District of Columbia have Negro policemen, and a few have also Negro policewomen.

The places are: Little Rock, Ark.; Los Angeles and Oakland, Calif.; Denver, Colo.; Bridgeport, Hartford and Waterbury, Conn.; Laurel and Wilmington, Del.; Fort Meyers, Jacksonville, Miami, Sarasota and Tampa, Fla.; Brooklyn, Cairo, Chicago, East St. Louis, and Robbins, Ill.; Evansville, Gary, Indianapolis, Muncie, Richmond, South Bend and Terre Haute, Ind.; Des Moines, Iowa; Coffeyville, Kansas City, Topeka and Wichita, Kans.; Lexington and Louisville, Ky.; Baltimore, Easton and Pocomoke City, Md.; Boston, Cambridge, Everett, Lynn, Melrose and New Bedford, Mass.; Detroit and Grand Rapids, Mich.; Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn.; Jefferson City, Kansas City, Sedalia and St. Louis, Mo.; Omaha, Nebr.; Atlantic City, Camden, Cape May, Elizabeth, Englewood, Hackensack, Jersey City, Montclair, Newark, Ocean City, Paterson, Plainfield and Trenton, N. J.; Buffalo, New Rochelle, New York City, Utica and Yonkers, N. Y.; High Point, N. C.; Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Steubenville, Toledo, Xenia, and Youngstown, Ohio; Muskogee, Oklahoma City, Okmulgee and Tulsa, Okla.; Chambersburg, Chester, Duquesne, Erie, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Reading, Sharon, Uniontown and Williamsport, Pa.; Cranston, Newport and Providence, R. I.; Knoxville and Memphis, Tenn.; Austin, Beaumont, Galveston, Houston and San Antonio, Tex.; Seattle, Spokane and

Tacoma, Wash.; Charleston and Wheeling, W. Va.; Milwaukee, Wis.; and Washington, District of Columbia.



CAPTAIN JOHN T. SCOTT

of Chicago, Ill., the first Negro police captain in the United States. Captain Scott just retired this year after 36 years of active service. Captain Scott is a Catholic and a member of St. Anselm's Church, Chicago, Ill.



SOME OF CHICAGO'S FINEST

A group of colored policeman and policewomen on the Chicago police force. Seated in the front row (middle) is Lieutenant Harry B. Deas, who has been appointed captain in command of the Stanton Avenue police station to succeed Captain Scott

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and specially bless them and their colored pupils."

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Only a few weeks ago 17 new candidates were admitted so that our high-school department has today 53 students, the largest number in the history of St. Augustine's Seminary. Nine students are in the Novitiate and Juniorate at St. Mary's Mission House, Techny, Illinois; 8 students are in the Major Seminary. One will soon be ordained a priest on the Feast of the Epiphany, the

6th of January, 1944.

God has signally blessed the work. What was expected to be a failure, has turned out to be a success. Eighteen Negro youths have reached their goal, the Holy Priesthood, and are laboring among their own people here and in the Lafayette Diocese and even as missionaries in British West Africa.

However, the work at St. Augustine's Seminary needs the prayers and the generous help of all our good friends, if it is to continue to progress and to succeed. On the occasion of the meeting of the Catholic Committee of the South in May, 1943, one veteran missionary of the South made this pertinent remark when speaking about our Seminary: "Father, your work at the Seminary is so important that upon its success or failure our Mission Work among the Negroes stands or falls." These words are still ringing loud in my ears. How true they are!

A Message from the President

Men of all races — black, brown, white and yellow — fight beside us for freedom. We cannot stand before the world as a champion of oppressed peoples unless we practice as well as preach the principles of Democracy for all men. Racial conflict diminishes war production, cuts down the flow of guns and planes and increases the toll of American lives. Racial strife destroys national unity at home and renders us suspect abroad.

Ours is a two-fold responsibility. All true Americans must be prepared to protect with life itself the inalienable rights of all men without regard to race, creed or color. All true Americans also must increasingly accept the responsibilities that go with democratic privileges.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT
President of the United States
September, 1943

NEGRO POLICEMEN

110 cities and towns in 29 of the 48 States of this country and in the District of Columbia have Negro policemen, and a few have also Negro policewomen.

The places are: Little Rock, Ark.; Los Angeles and Oakland, Calif.; Denver, Colo.; Bridgeport, Hartford and Waterbury, Conn.; Laurel and Wilmington, Del.; Fort Meyers, Jacksonville, Miami, Sarasota and Tampa, Fla.; Brooklyn, Cairo, Chicago, East St. Louis, and Robbins, Ill.; Evansville, Gary, Indianapolis, Muncie, Richmond, South Bend and Terre Haute, Ind.; Des Moines, Iowa; Coffeyville, Kansas City, Topeka and Wichita, Kans.; Lexington and Louisville, Ky.; Baltimore, Easton and Pocomoke City, Md.; Boston, Cambridge, Everett, Lynn, Melrose and New Bedford, Mass.; Detroit and Grand Rapids, Mich.; Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn.; Jefferson City, Kansas City, Sedalia and St. Louis, Mo.; Omaha, Nebr.; Atlantic City, Camden, Cape May, Elizabeth, Englewood, Hackensack, Jersey City, Montclair, Newark, Ocean City, Paterson, Plainfield and Trenton, N. J.; Buffalo, New Rochelle, New York City, Utica and Yonkers, N. Y.; High Point, N. C.; Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Steubenville, Toledo, Xenia, and Youngstown, Ohio; Muskogee, Oklahoma City, Okmulgee and Tulsa, Okla.; Chambersburg, Chester, Duquesne, Erie, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Reading, Sharon, Uniontown and Williamsport, Pa.; Cranston, Newport and Providence, R. I.; Knoxville and Memphis, Tenn.; Austin, Beaumont, Galveston, Houston and San Antonio, Tex.; Seattle, Spokane and

Tacoma, Wash.; Charleston and Wheeling, W. Va.; Milwaukee, Wis.; and Washington, District of Columbia.



CAPTAIN JOHN T. SCOTT

of Chicago, Ill., the first Negro police captain in the United States. Captain Scott just retired this year after 36 years of active service. Captain Scott is a Catholic and a member of St. Anselm's Church, Chicago, Ill.



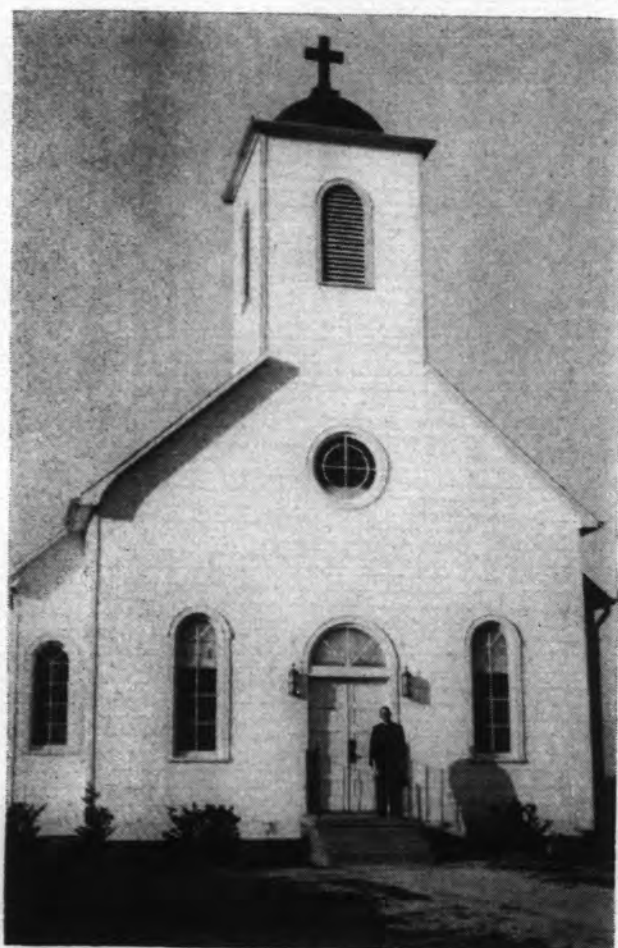
SOME OF CHICAGO'S FINEST

A group of colored policeman and policewomen on the Chicago police force. Seated in the front row (middle) is Lieutenant Harry B. Deas, who has been appointed captain in command of the Stanton Avenue police station to succeed Captain Scott

YOU DON'T KNOW EUNICE

MAXINE WILLIAMS, S.V. D.

● Mission Work in Southwestern Louisiana



ST. MATHILDA'S CHURCH, EUNICE, LA.
On the steps is Father Demers, S.S.J., pastor

You very likely don't know Eunice, at least not *this* Eunice, and that's something you perhaps have in common with 131,663,521 other Americans. I cannot say that you are lucky, for Eunice (population 5,242 more or less) is indeed a very nice little town, situated on Highway 190, just 58 miles from Alexandria, only 76 miles from Baton Rouge, and a mere 157 miles from New Orleans.

The name "Eunice" is a Greek word meaning "Happy Victory," though as to the reason why this town is so named, I bite. Why?

But what I am interested in most here in Eunice is the great work being done among the Colored Catholics by a Josephite priest, Father Gilbert Demers, S.S.J., pastor of St. Mathilda's Mission. I had heard about Father Demers' good work, but when I came here to help him out for a few weeks I got an eyeful.

This mission was started four years ago in a small building which formerly had been used as a house of ill-fame. Thirty Catholics attended the first Mass. Many of the colored people in Eunice had been baptized Catholic, but for lack of proper attention many had drifted away.

In less than two years Father Demers, with the help of kind friends, had built the present beautiful St. Mathilda's Church and had opened a small school. The people began returning to the practice of their Faith. Attendance at Sunday Mass rose to 400. With over 100 children in the school, Father found it necessary to employ two lay teachers.

But this is not all. Father Demers also has a mission church and school — St. Monica's — at Tyrone. So on Sunday, after he hears Confessions, says the 7:30 Mass and preaches, he must rush seven miles by auto to go through the same routine again. Father has one lay

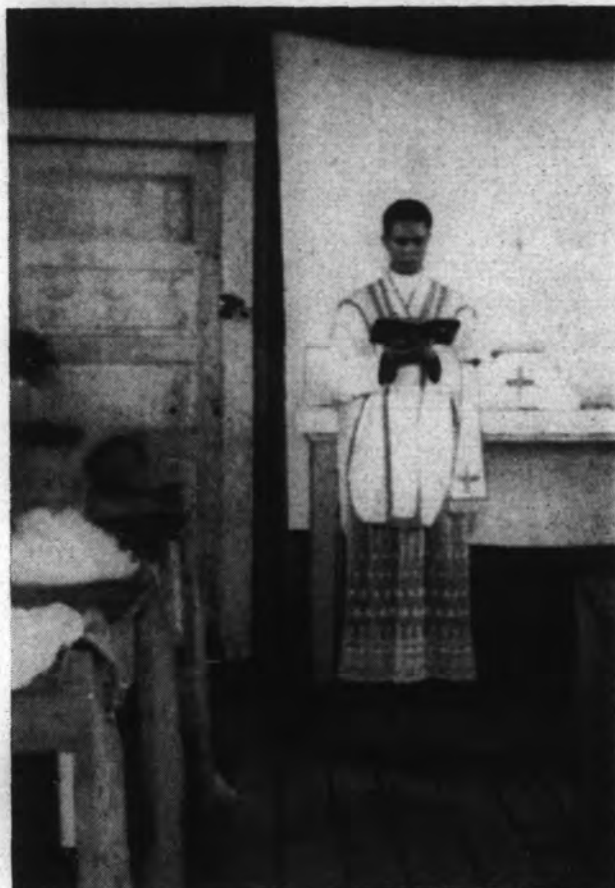
ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

teacher employed for the 62 children at Tyrone.

But even this is not all! There is a little settlement of Colored Catholics at *Lance de Rougeau* in the rice country near Eunice. These good people, mostly farmers, begged Father Demers to do something for them, to give them an opportunity to attend Holy Mass at least once in a while. So zealous Father Demers goes about six or seven miles into the rice country every Saturday morning to say Mass at *Lance de Rougeau*. For this purpose he uses a dilapidated old shack which masquerades under the title of "school building." I have seen this place. In fact, I said Mass there four Saturdays, and it truly hurt me to see such poverty amid plenty.

But these good people need not

worry. Father Demers is still at the helm, and what he has done at Eunice and is doing at Tyrone he will do for *Lance de Rougeau*. If you doubt this, you not only don't know Eunice, you also don't know Father Demers!



RIGHT: Father Williams saying Mass in the school at *Lance de Rougeau*

BELOW: Some of the 60 Catholics in front of the "school" at *Lance de Rougeau*, La.



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The months of June, July, August whizzed by in streamline rapidity. "Maybe Old Man School Year could pass that fast also," optimistically comments the New School of vacation youngsters.

Minor Seminary Opens

September 7, fifty-three students arrived here from vacation. Seventeen new students hail from the states of California, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, D. C., and some of these new minor seminarians were accompanied here by their parents.

In order to implore the blessing of God upon the school year, the Solemn Votive Mass of the Holy Ghost was chanted in the Seminary Chapel. Shortly afterwards the opening sessions of classes began.

The traditional amateur night was staged by our students September 12. The light performances of instrumental and vocal musical renditions, jokes, and boxing proved that we have much talent and good talent in our midst.

Gee, folks, it's a great sight to see those jolly, peppy youngsters just in their 'teens toggled away in giant breast-protectors, masks, mits, gloves during free time on the ball diamond!

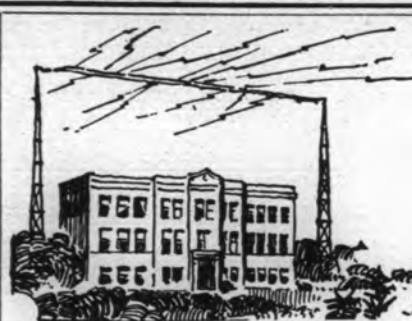
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Seminary C

BROADCAST

St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay S

the only Catholic Negro Semi

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The retreat began on Thursday evening, September 23, and ended on Sunday morning, September 26. On Saturday, September 25, at 7.30 in the evening, the minor seminarians renewed their Baptismal Vows, while dedicating themselves to the call of the missionary vocation. After the ceremony, evening prayers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament followed.



NEW STUDENTS AT THE

Seated left to right: Vernon Washington (Vicksburg, La.), Wendell Collier (Washington, D. C.), John Harry (New Orleans, La.). Second row: Jerome LeDoux (Lake Charles, La.), Willie Oliver and Everett Williams (New Orleans, La.), William Bowden (Chicago, Ill.). Top row: James Moultrie (Atlanta, Ga.), Robert Pitts (Buffalo, N. Y.), Lawrence Rufus Handy (Grand Coteau, La.), Fisher

Seminary News

BROADCAST from
Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi
The Negro Seminary in America



Visitors

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Father Schaps, Professor of languages at the Seminary, paid us a visit during the middle of September. He now majors in French at Tulane University for the degree of Master of Arts, and is stationed at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in New Orleans, La.



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Other visitors included Father Victor Boisvert, C.S.C., a great friend of the Seminary, former pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Pearlinton, Mississippi, and now stationed at Gatesville, Texas. Accompanying Father Victor was Father Curran, C.S.C., who succeeds Father Victor as pastor of St. Joseph's Church.

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The Junior Knights of Holy Ghost, St. Monica and Corpus Christi Parishes, and the Holy Name men of Corpus Christi Parish recently held picnics on our Seminary property.

Rector's Day

In commemoration of the installation of our new Rector, Very Reverend Joseph Busch, a free day was observed September 15 by the Community of the Seminary. True community spirit in extending fraternal congratulations and praying for his intentions was shown by the Community on this appropriate occasion. We wish the Very Reverend Father Rector a very successful administration in God's work at the Seminary.

Brothers Recover

Once again we are proud to have with us good Brother Lawrence, who is now convalescing, after a serious abdominal operation at Flint Goodrich Hospital located at New Orleans, Louisiana. Welcome home, Brother.

Brother Augustine is once more faithfully performing the daily chores at the chicken farm. Having undergone a minor operation of the knee, Brother was unable to attend the various community exercises for several weeks.

Major Seminary

The theologians and philosophers for once and all met each other *in campo communi* (on common grounds) without those deep scholastic disputations on the evening of the Feast of the Assumption. An informal program appropriately arranged was the major feature of the occasion. The program: Frater Per-

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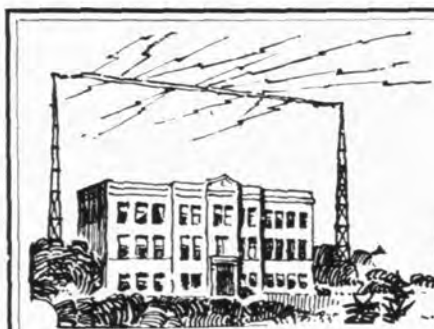
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Monthly News

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Student body of the preparatory seminary. Father Hubert Posjena, S.V.D. (right), prefect, and Father Otto Schellenberger, S.V.D. (left), assistant prefect

OUR SEMINARIANS

Among the many things for which we are thankful this Thanksgiving is the fact that our present enrollment at St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay Saint Louis, Miss., is the largest yet. September brought us seventeen new students from eight States and the District of Columbia.

With 53 preparatory students and 8 major seminarians, together with the 9 seminarians in our novitiate and juniorate at St. Mary's Mission House, Techny, Ill., we now have 70 colored students preparing for the priesthood as members of the Society of the Divine Word.

These 70 seminarians come from 18 different States, the District of Columbia and the Panama Canal Zone. Here is the way they line up according to States:

Alabama (2) — *Ensley*: Leon Ellis; *Mobile*: Samuel Buford.

California (1) — *Los Angeles*: Laurence Williams.

Florida (1) — *Coconut Grove*: Frater Curtis Washington, S.V.D.

Georgia (2) — *Atlanta*: Nathaniel Shanks; *Savannah*: James Moultrie.

Illinois (4) — *Chicago*: Donald Bourgeois, Marion Bowden, Joachim Mason and Lawrence Thornton.

Indiana (1) — *Logansport*: Bernard Dunn.

Louisiana (31) — *Abbeville*: Frater John LaBauve, Joseph Guidry, Raymond Guidry and Fisher Robinson; *Algiers*: Aubry Osborn; *Baldwin*: August Thompson; *Barton*: John Foster; *Crowley*: Paul Fontenot; *Grand Coteau*: William Chevis and Rufus Handy; *Klotzville*: Warren Honore; *Lafayette*: Frater Mark

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

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- Nebraska* (2) — *Omaha*: Frater Oscar Hodges, S.V. D., and Victor Metoyer.
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SONG OF THE SWAMPS

Vernon Dauphin, S.V. D.

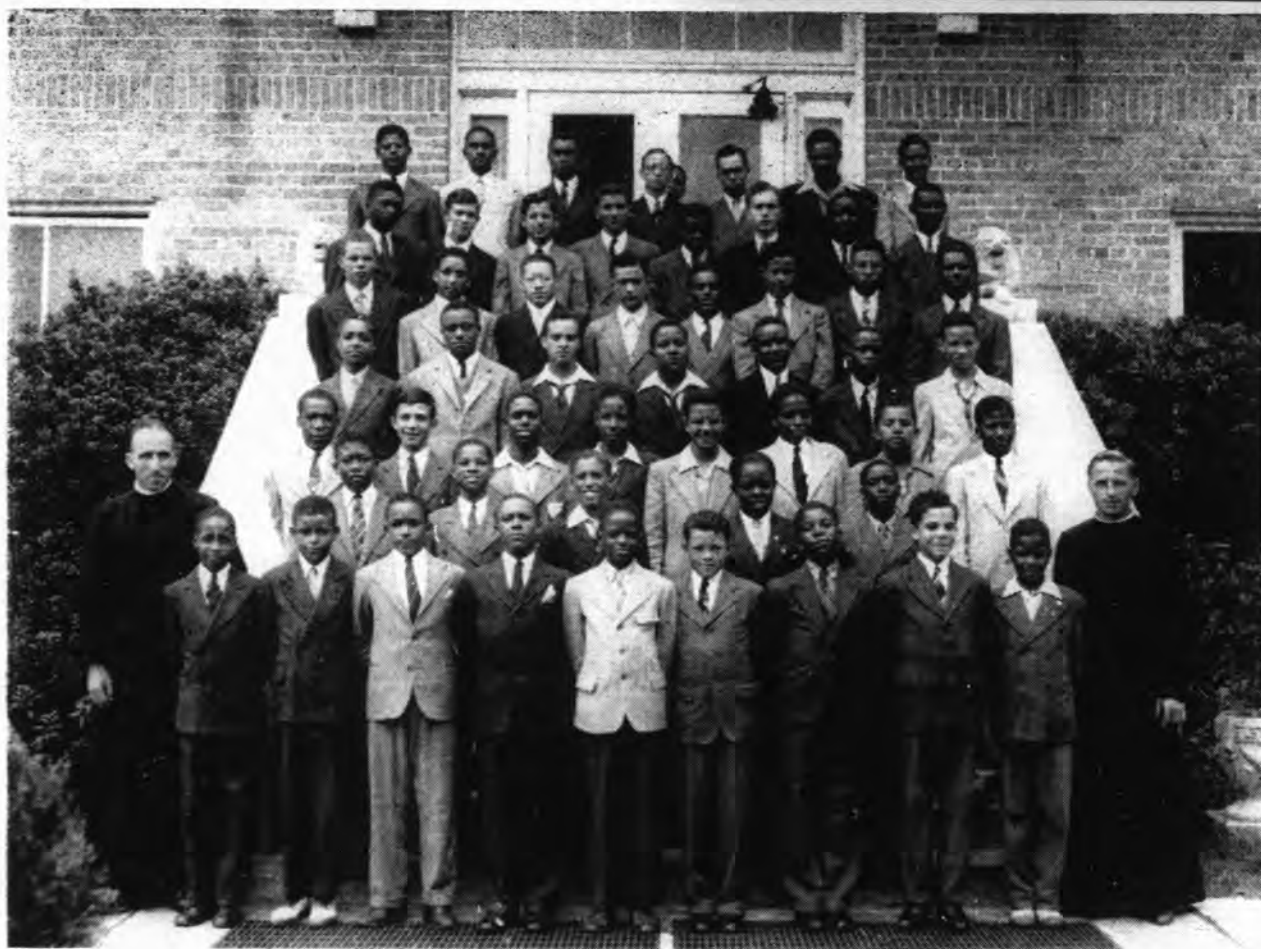
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While high o'erhead in warbling rhythm to the gleams
Of each dancing ray, sings the whippoorwill
A merry, trilling tune. All the earth is still —
And I

In admiration caught.

O'er the pine tops fan the gentle breezes, care free,
While down below in waving clusters surge 'bout me
Wild ferns, that kiss nature's soft dank breast.
They're gay with coursing life. All the earth's at rest —
And I

In heark'ning to their song:

"Light and coolness sweet,
Life and music meet,
Nature's soothing treat
O'er care-worn souls doth pour.
Come, cast your cares away,
Repose in nature's lay,
Foretaste of brighter day
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He's a Captain Now



FATHER JOHN W. BOWMAN, S.V.D.

Word has been received that Father John W. Bowman, S.V.D., the only Negro Catholic priest in the Army Chaplains' Corps, has been promoted to the rank of captain.

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EXTREME UNCTION

Arthur C. Winters, S.V.D.

Lay Thy hands upon me, Lord,
Ere I pass — my last desire,
Ere I pause in cleansing fire.

Mark my flesh with holy oil,
Mark it with Thy saving balm,
Make my soul and body calm.

Bless my mouth, my ears, my eyes,
Bless my hands and straying feet,
Which have walked an erring street.

Thine anointing is my hope;
I have turned to lesser things,
Now to Thee my spirit clings.

Now to Thee I give my all,
Lord, confirmed by Thy sweet grace,
Grant that I may see Thy face. Amen.

NOVEMBER'S SAINTS

Nov. 5 — Blessed Martin de Porres

This humble Negro Dominican lay Brother's name is daily being lauded and invoked by thousands of devout Catholics the world over. The miracles God performed through him during his life as well as the many wonders after his life prove that God is no respecter of persons. Neither was Blessed Martin during and after his life. He was the apostle of charity towards all in need. How much would this selfish world benefit if it were to adopt a little of the charity and sympathetic understanding of Blessed Martin. Pray to him for the conversion of the Negro.

Nov. 21 — Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

As early as the ninth century, and perhaps much earlier, this feast was celebrated in Mary's honor. It commemorates the generous act of Mary's parents in consecrating and dedicating their sublime gift to God. Who can imagine the joy with which God accepted this gift as He beheld Mary's immaculate soul. Saints tell us that as Christ came to us through Mary so we should come to Him through her. Present all your petitions and difficulties to her and be assured Mary will never disregard them. Pray to her for all souls consecrated to the service of God.

Nov. 22 — St. Cecilia

The patroness of music and the most renowned virgin of Rome comes before us today for our veneration and imitation. She lived in the third century and though married against her will to a pagan she succeeded in preserving her chastity and in converting her husband and brother. All three died a martyr's



Pray for the souls in purgatory that the Saving Blood of the Redeemer may free them from their prison

death. She died from loss of blood due to the clumsy attempts of the pagan executioner to behead her. The good example of one Catholic often does far more good than the sermons of our priests. Ask her to obtain for you the grace of persevering in good always.

Nov. 23 — St. Clement

A personal friend of SS. Peter and Paul and an intrepid defender of the true faith was the saint whom we honor today. He was the third successor of Peter and perhaps the

most famous of the first-century Popes. His famous epistle is of immense value since it depicts the teachings of the Church in the first century. Pray to him today for the special intentions of our present Holy Father.

Nov. 28 — Advent

The ecclesiastical cycle, like the astronomical, is accomplished in one year, but the liturgical year of the Church differs from that of the civil year in so far as its year begins not on January 1 but on the first Sunday of Advent — which fluctuates between November 27 and December 3. Its meaning for Catholics is a very sober and serious one. Advent means coming, or approach. Christ's coming has a twofold significance; the first concerns His first one which we celebrate every December 25, the second concerns His second when He will come not as a little Child but as a powerful King and Judge rendering to everyone according to his merits. Many will not see the coming Christmas. Who knows, maybe we are included in that number. The best preparation during this holy season of Advent is to frequent the Sacraments and go to Mass.

He's a Captain Now



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BRIGHT SPOTS IN THE NEWS

Negro Speaker at Houston War Drive

At an enormous celebration during which a certificate for over 85 million dollars was handed Frank Knox, the Secretary of the Navy, Mr. John W. Rice, state Negro director of NYA, was chosen to deliver the keynote speech. The Colosseum in Houston, Texas, was the scene of the patriotic demonstration. Mr. Rice sat on the platform flanked by the Secretary of the Navy, the governor of Texas, the mayor of Houston and high-ranking admirals and generals. It was one of the few times in the history of the South that a Negro occupied such a prominent place on a white program. Mr. Rice spoke on unity, and his speech was given prolonged applause by an enthusiastic audience, ninety percent white.

Successful Heart Operation

On July 6 in St. Mary's Hospital, East St. Louis, Missouri, an unusually delicate operation was successfully performed by Dr. H. H. Weathers. This eminent Negro surgeon sewed up the heart of a 22-year-old youth who was bleeding to death as a result of being stabbed. The blade of the knife had penetrated the left auricle of the young man's heart, and Dr. Weathers closed the incision with three stitches. Dr. Weathers is head of the department of surgery at St. Mary's Infirmary in St. Louis, Mo.

Patriotic Mail Carrier

The president of the Colored Catholic Laymen's League of Georgia is a mail carrier named Edgar L. Mathews. During the month of May he decided to make a special effort to aid the government's drive for war bonds. In addition to his regular monthly purchases, Mr. Mathews bought eight other bonds, one for each of his children.

V.F.W. Enlists Negro as Member

Sgt. John Johnson became the first Negro of World War II to join the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization in the state of Louisiana (if not in

the entire nation). This young Negro soldier was seriously disabled in action in the South Pacific. In appreciation for his services to the country the Triumph Post 1749, a New Orleans unit of the V.F.W., enrolled Sgt. Johnson as a member.

Negro Girls Placed by F.E.P.C.

Through the activity of the Fair Employment Practice Commission several qualified Negro girls have obtained government inspection jobs in war-time industries in and about Buffalo, N. Y. The case of the first three Negro placements put the FEPC to work. Early last spring three Negro girls were among the 24 persons who had completed a ten-weeks training course at a technical school in Buffalo, N. Y. All the girls were immediately placed except the three Negro women. The FEPC took up the case with the government ordinance department and the three girls were put to work at the Flexume Corp. but were not permitted to assume full duties as government inspectors until the FEPC came in and reopened investigation on the reason. Shortly after, on the basis of their work, these girls were transferred to the Curtiss Wright Buffalo plant and since then the Flexume plant has employed several Negro girls as government inspectors.

Negro Election Officials at Norfolk

Five Negro judges and clerks were chosen by the Democratic party of Norfolk, Va., on August 11. They will act as officials in the coming Democratic primary election in the 21st precinct there. It marks the first time in the history of Virginia that Negroes have served in this capacity.

Carver to Get Monument

Near the little town of Diamond, Mo., the birthplace of George W. Carver, a national monument will be erected in his honor. President Roosevelt signed a bill which provides for \$30,000 to be used for this project. The monu-

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

ment will serve as a lasting memorial of the nation's appreciation of the work of Mr. Carver, the famous Negro chemistry genius. The monument will not be erected till after the war.

Indiana Medical School Admits Negro Girls

When two pre-medical students, Misses Dorothy Alexander and Josephine Kirk, were admitted to the University of Indiana's Medical School, it marked the first time that Negro women were admitted there. Together with 152 other students, these two Negro girls were chosen after passing a rigid examination. They will enter the School of Medicine in May, 1944.

Boston Negro Postal Employee Promoted

Postmaster General Frank C. Walker approved the promotion of Robert L. Merritt, Jr., to the office of foreman in the large Boston Post Office. The promotion of Mr. Merritt was recommended by the Boston postmaster, Mr. Patrick J. Connelly. Mr. Merritt is the second Negro to be appointed in a supervisory capacity in nineteen years.

First Negro N. Y. Boxing Commissioner

Governor Dewey of N. Y. announced on August 12 that Dr. C. B. Powell, noted Negro physician, had been appointed a member of the N. Y. State Athletic Commission. Dr. Powell is the first Negro to be chosen to the famed N. Y. Boxing Commission.

War Department to Commission Negro Judge Advocates

Negro lawyers will be commissioned as judge advocates by the War Department according to the National Lawyer's Guild announcement of August 11. The Assistant Secretary of War J. J. McCloy stated a limited number of Negro Judge Advocates will be placed in designated service commands. The Judge Advocate General will select them from qualified officers of other

arms and services, and if this source is inadequate the remainder will be taken from those who have successfully completed an officer candidate school.

Tuskegee to Train Army Nurses

Dr. Patterson, President of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, stated that the John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital at Tuskegee is recruiting and training young women to act as nurses in the U. S. Armed Services. Those enrolling in the new accelerated course may become members of the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps. Full details may be had by writing the Registrar, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

Seminary News

(Continued from page 205)

ry was ace magician far into the evening.... Poetic strains found their expression in Fraters Dauphin and Figaro. Boy, oh, boy! You should have heard the balanced scheme and build-up of Frater William Adams' jokes, etc. Father Howard livened up matters a bit with his travel narrations, while applying his usual quota of joviality. Frater Edward Adams wielded a fine hand for us in ladling and serving the refreshments. Frater Winters and his guitar blended artistically along the lines of onomatopoeic melody in the production of a well-known spiritual.

Our little magazine goes abroad to scatter the seed which produces love for the Colored Missions and much knowledge and interest in the Negro Apostolate. The rich crop of such planting helps to effect at times a conversion or even a religious vocation. Therefore, lend your copy to a well-disposed acquaintance.

TREAT YOUR BEST FRIEND
to a choice gift this
Christmas
Give him a year's subscription to
St. Augustine's Messenger



With our SVD Fathers on the Colored Missions

Taking the Census

CHICAGO, ILL. — Two Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate are busily engaged in taking up the religious census in St. Anselm's Parish. One of them, Sister Mary, is the moderator of St. Anselm's Young Ladies' Sodality, whose members recently spent a day of recollection under the guidance of Father Edward Misik, S.V. D., their director.

The Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate were founded in New York in 1920 by Mother Mary Teresa Tallon. They now number 110 Sisters.

New Lunch Room

BAY ST. LOUIS, MISS. — Father Joseph Holken, S.V. D., has in-



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Father Arthur Haines, S.V. D., has been transferred from St. Elizabeth's Church, Chicago, Ill., to St. Nicholas' Church, St. Louis, Mo., where he is now assisting the busy pastor, Father Charles Reinelt, S.V. D.

stalled a "swanky" lunch room in St. Rose de Lima School. Father was not satisfied with the restricted amount of provisions his school children received from the State Surplus Commodity Board simply because his school was not equipped to serve hot lunches. So this summer Father Holken had Brother Stillfried, the Seminary carpenter, to make ten small lunch tables. These were covered and varnished and placed in a room which had been painted in cheerful colors. A cooking range, dishes and other necessary furnishings have been procured, and now the 225 pupils of St. Rose's can have a piping hot lunch served up at noon in what Father Holken insists on calling *THE* cafeteria, no less!

Sanctuary Repaired

LAFAYETTE, LA. — Ever since the flood three years ago the plaster on the walls of the sanctuary of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church has been in a bad way. It was cracked, and small chunks of it fell off at divers times. Father Anthony Bourges, S.V. D., has ever and anon patched it up here and there, but it didn't look quite fit for the House of the Lord. Now at last Father has succeeded in having the whole sanctuary replastered. And now he is looking around to see what else has just *got* to be repaired, but don't worry, no missionary ever has to look very long for such things.



KIDDIES' RHYTHM BAND, IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SCHOOL
LAFAYETTE, LA.

This school, with an enrollment of 160 boys, is staffed by the Sisters of the Holy Family from New Orleans, La.

More People Than He Thought

CADE, LA. — Father Richard Winters, S.V. D., has been in charge of St. Anthony's Mission only a little over a year and he figured that there were about 300 or 350 Catholics in the Cade Mission territory. Finally after much tedious work of riding and walking and visiting and seeking out, etc., he got a complete census. He found 566 Catholics.

Father Leander Martin, S.V. D., also made a careful survey of the flock committed to his care in St. John, just eight miles away. He found exactly 480 Catholics.

Who Has a Bugle?

Father Maxine Williams, S.V.D., wrote in from Lafayette, La., to tell us that he now has a full troop of registered Boy Scouts — thirty-two — and that they are really good. But what he really wanted to put over was the fact that his troop has prospective buglers but no bugle, and he thinks that is hard luck.

Well, offhand, we wouldn't think that so bad; in fact, we could name a few soldiers who would just love to see a bugler without a bugle. But, then, we suppose Boy Scouts must be different. So if any of you kind and indulgent readers have an extra bugle around (and you want to make somebody happy) please send it to Father Maxine Williams, S.V.D., Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Box 256, Lafayette, La.

● REMEMBER OUR FRIENDS ●

"It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead..." (2 Mac. 12, 46)

In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Rev. Andrew J. Fitzpatrick, S.S.J.; died at St. Joseph's Hospital, Baltimore, Md., June 21, 1943. 27 years a priest.

Rev. Laurence A. Deering; died in Media, Pa., August, 1943; age 72 years.

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May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



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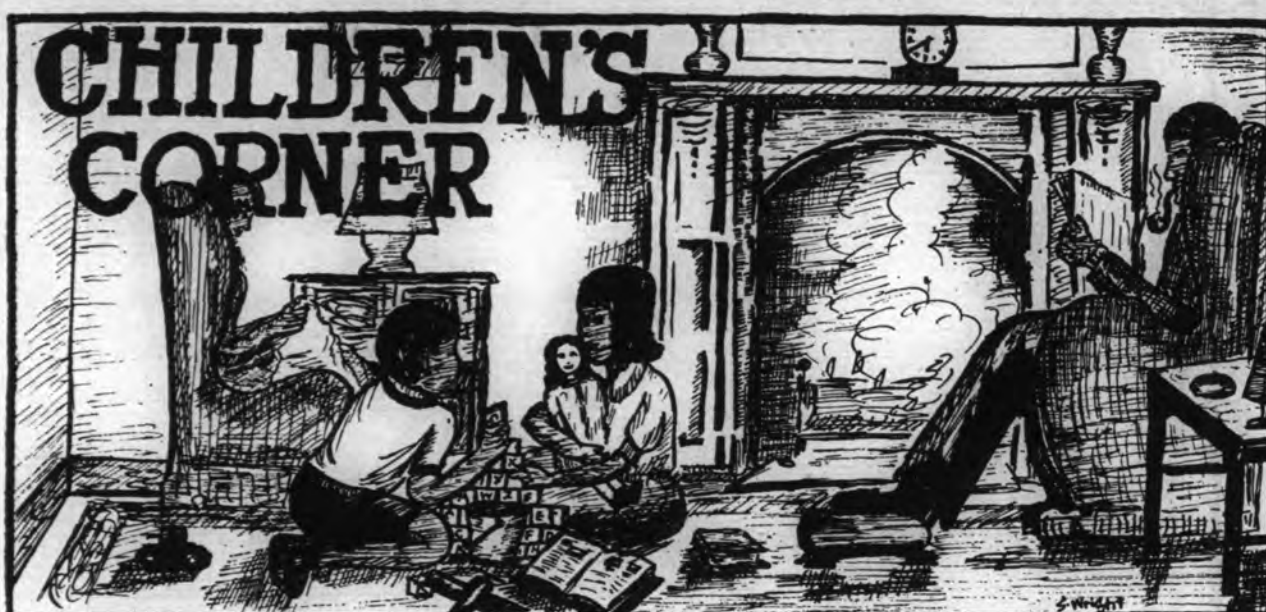
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My dear Boys and Girls:

In a few days Thanksgiving Day will be coming around, and I know that you are already feeling thankful for that free day from school. That's O. K. But don't let your thanks stop there. There are just lots and lots of things for which you can and should give thanks. Want to know a few of them? All right.

Just sit down and close your eyes for a minute and think of all the things you would NOT have if you didn't have a mother (or a grandmother, or an aunt, or a guardian).

Then think for a minute of all the things you would NOT have if you didn't have a church to go to and a priest to give you the Sacraments.

Then think what you would MISS if you had no teacher to show you how to read and write, no school to go to, no other children to play with.

Now, do you know some of the things you should be thankful for? Of course, you do. So now, make up your mind to go to Mass the first thing on Thanksgiving Day and thank God for all the nice things you have, for they all came from Him. Then you will feel much happier on Thanksgiving.

MY MAIL BAG

Dear Father Howard: I am writing to tell you how I enjoy reading the **MESSENGER**.

I am like all the rest of the boys and girls, I like to read the comic books; but I am taking your advice and will soon be reading the **TIMELESS TOPIX**. Mother has sent off an order, and I will read one and will sell the

rest to the children of Our Mother of Mercy Parish.

I will pray for you and pray that **ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER** be published forever. Sincerely yours,

Roland Wells, age 12
P. O. Box 83
Liberty, Texas

Roland, that is a very good idea, and especially since the **TIMELESS TOPIX** is getting better and better as well as bigger. It now has 16 pages all in colors, and will be mailed to anybody for 50c a year, which is 5c a copy, or it may be bought at school. Every boy and girl ought to change over from bad comic books to **TIMELESS TOPIX**. The address is **TIMELESS TOPIX**, 128 East 10th Street, St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Father Howard: How are you? Fine, we hope. Please excuse me for not writing you. I know you must say I am a bum secretary.

Everything is getting along swell. We are planning to have a card party for our Mission Club 'round the late part of this month, or next month, or it may end up to be month after next.

We have a new club member; her name is Mildred Davis. I think they told you about her. She is a very nice girl.

Another thing we want to tell you is that the medals you gave us are very nice and we are still wearing them. We appreciate them very much.

Some of us have now passed to the seventh grade and some of us to the eighth. Haven't much more to say, but we all will say Good-bye, your friends,

The Junior Missionary Club
Katherine Llorens, Sect'y, age 12
3736 Wabash Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

You did not lose much time in writing. Your sister said in her last letter that you would do the writing hereafter. Congratulations on your new job as secretary. Glad to know the Junior Missionaries are getting along all right. Keep up the good work and write again soon.

Dear Father Howard: My name is Mary Catherine. I go to St. Rose de Lima School, and I was promoted to the 7th grade this year.

I read the ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER and I see where different children send in Tongue-Twisters, so I am sending this one in:

'Twixt six thick thumbs stick six thick sticks. — Yours sincerely,

Mary Catherine Garrett, age 11
Box 182

Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

Mary Catherine, I am very glad to learn that you were reading the MESSENGER, but evidently it was a very, very old one. The Tongue-Twister Contest ended just about two years ago. But, now, don't misunderstand me; your Tongue-Twister is very good, but just a little, shall I say, tardy? However, we are having a very good contest right now, the Mission-graph Contest, which I would be happy to have you enter. Read about it just after the poem which is coming now.

PEOPLE AND STYLE

by

Vivian Heisser
Madisonville, La.

People are such queer little creatures,
They have such funny features;
But they like to follow the style,
Because it only lasts a while.

When the women see those high-heel shoes,
Oh, they all just get enthused.
The men with their high hats and long canes,
To be spick and span they take pains.

The children are stylish as stylish can be,
They want everything to fit to a "T,"
Because they want to be in style, too,
Just like their mothers and fathers do.

Vivian, I believe you have something there. It seems you have studied human nature a bit.

MISSION-GRAPH CONTEST

Last month a boy won the contest, but this month the girls come right back. Here is the winner for this month:

Graduation at St. Peter's School

St. Peter's Mission for the Colored in Chastang, Ala., has both a grammar school and a high school. The high-school graduation was held on the first Sunday in June.

We had only one high-school graduate this year, and that happened to be my sister, Myrtle. We would have had two graduates, but our 12th grade boy was called to the Army three weeks before school closed. Of course, everybody felt sorry for him.

Another one of our high-school boys was called into the Armed Services on July 28. He would have graduated this coming June. It seems as though the highest classroom is quite empty of boys, but girls have taken their places. St. Peter's will have another graduation exercise next year, even if all the graduates are girls.

The Franciscan Sisters teach in St. Peter's School. There are almost a hundred children.

Bertha Chastang, age 16
R.F.D. 1, Box 59
Mount Vernon, Alabama
(St. Peter's School)

Bertha wins a one-year free subscription to ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER for her Mission-graph. You can do the same. Write a Mission-graph today, and send it right away.

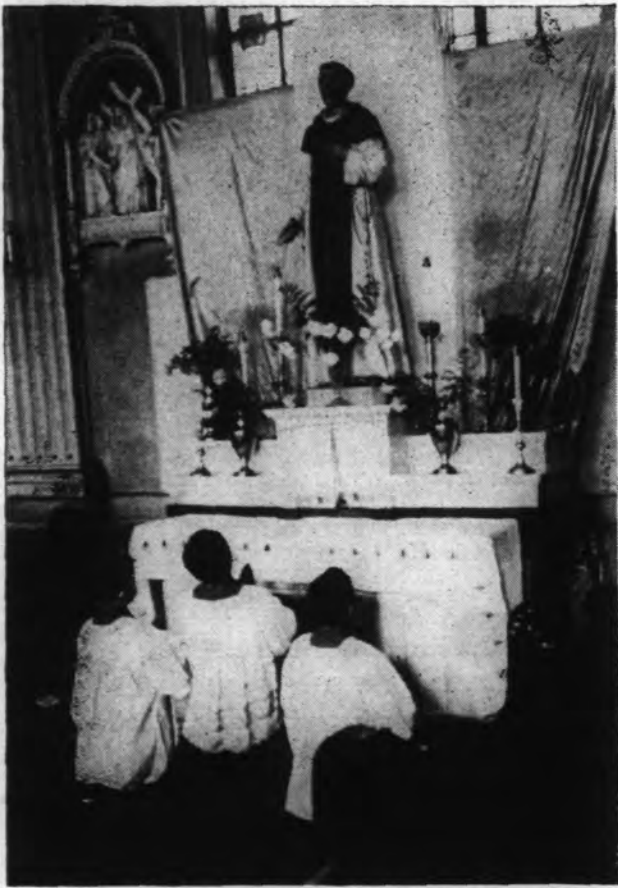


I wish all of you a HAPPY THANKSGIVING. Don't forget to pray for the Poor Souls this month, and also ask them to pray for the success of the Colored Mission work.

FATHER HOWARD, S.V. D.
Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi



ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER



The Blessed Martin Guild, 141 East 65th St., New York City, is conducting a National Novena to Blessed Martin de Porres this year, November 1-9



Solemn Christmas Novena for our Friends and Benefactors

We invite you to join us in this Novena to be held in the

SEMINARY CHAPEL

December 16-24

in preparation for Christmas

***St. Augustine's Seminary
Bay Saint Louis, Miss.***

NOTICE

We invite men in the Armed Forces to write to us. We want to publish your letters in the MESSENGER for the benefit of the folks at home.

BOOKS

New: **GOD'S GUESTS OF TOMORROW**

By Rev. Lester M. Dooley, S.V. D.

A mystical trip to Purgatory. Factual, yet as exciting as fiction. Seasonal reading for November. Published by the Scapular Press, 338 E. 29th St., New York City. Price \$1.75

Also: **DISCOURSES ON THE HOLY GHOST**

Compiled and edited by

Rev. Lester M. Dooley, S.V. D.

Published by Joseph F. Wagner, Inc., 53 Park Place, New York, N. Y.

Price \$2.50

BURSES

A Burse is a Scholarship for the education of a student for the Holy Priesthood. A complete Burse is \$5,000. We have a number of incomplete Burses. Won't you help us to complete at least one of the following?

(October, 1943)

Sacred Heart	\$3,702.00
St. Augustine	874.25
St. Matthias	839.50
St. Jude	574.00
St. Elizabeth	500.00
Holy Ghost	185.87
St. Madeleine Sophie Barat	99.00

Any amount, no matter how small, will be welcome.

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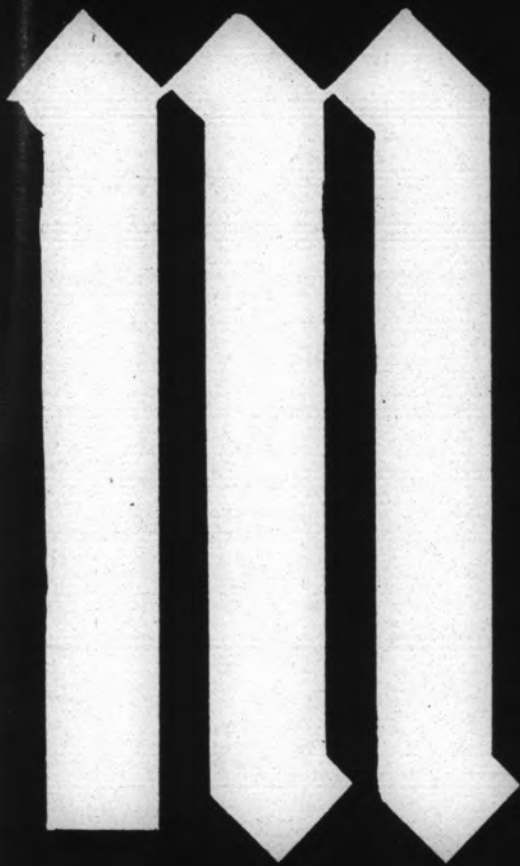
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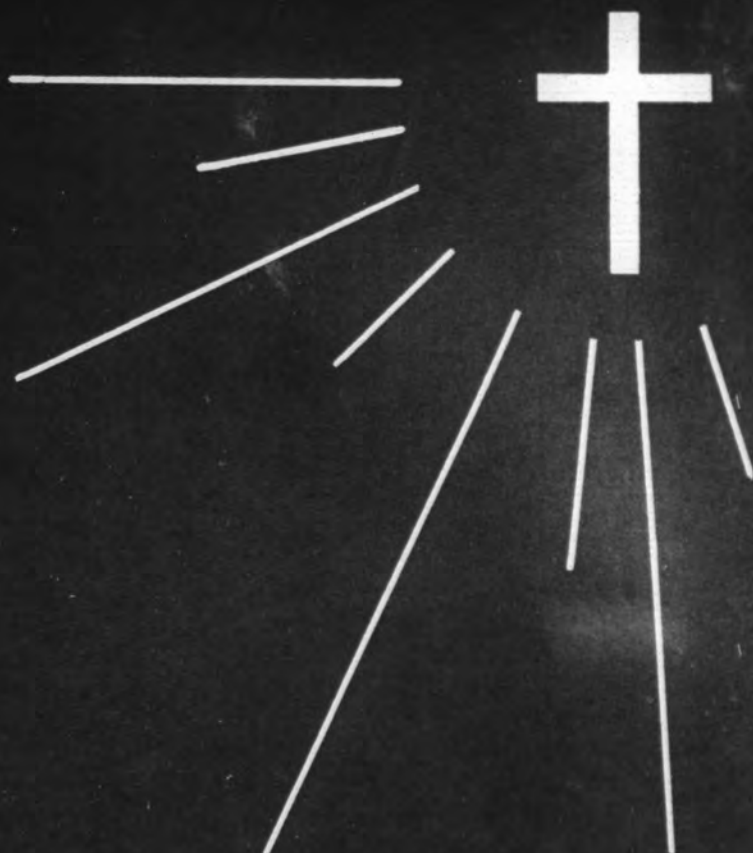
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AUGUSTINE'S
SEMINARY
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Vol. XXI, No. 10
DECEMBER, 1943

Published by the Order of St. Augustine



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ESTABLISHMENT OF NEGRO CLERGY

A Catholic Negro magazine, published monthly, except July, at Techny, Illinois, by St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Subscription \$1.00 a year. Proceeds are used for the education of colored students for the priesthood.

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Editor: CLARENCE J. HOWARD, S.V.D.
ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

Volume XXI

DECEMBER, 1943

Number 10

In a spirit of deep appreciation and sincere gratitude for his fearless and open advocacy of a Negro Catholic Clergy, and for his constant encouragement and support of the pioneering work being done by St. Augustine's Seminary, this issue is respectfully dedicated to the

Most Reverend Jules B. Jeanmard, D.D.
Bishop of Lafayette, La.

on the joyful occasion of the celebration of his 40th year in the Priesthood and his 25th year as first Bishop of the See of Lafayette.

The Editor

A
Blessed Christmas
To All



**HIS EXCELLENCY, THE MOST REVEREND JULES BENJAMIN JEANMARD, D.D.
BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA**

Born in Breaux Bridge, La., in 1879. Ordained to the Priesthood June 10, 1903, and consecrated as first Bishop of the newly erected Diocese of Lafayette December 8, 1918. In 1934 became the first American Bishop to have Negro priests of the Society of the Divine Word doing parish work in his diocese

DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE
BISHOP'S HOUSE
LAFAYETTE, LA.

October 19, 1943

Reverend Clarence J. Howard, S.V.D., Editor,
St. Augustine's Messenger,
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.

My dear Father Howard,

In looking back over the past twenty-five years, I can truly say that nothing has given me greater consolation or satisfaction than the growth and development of the work undertaken in behalf of our good colored people.

God has indeed been good to the Diocese in sending such zealous, self-sacrificing and devoted missionaries into this neglected field. The Josephites, the Holy Ghost Fathers and the Fathers of the Divine Word have vied with one another in holy emulation, and today they can point with a legitimate pride to the churches, chapels and schools which have sprung up, as if by magic, in every part of the Diocese. They have been ably seconded by the Sisters of the Holy Family, the Blessed Sacrament Sisters and the Holy Ghost Sisters, who conduct our thirty-one schools, with the help of lay teachers, for the colored.

We owe much also to the generosity of the Commission for Catholic Missions Among the Colored People and Indians, the Board for Mission Work Among the Colored People, the American Board of Catholic Missions and to Mother Katharine Drexel, without whose help we could not have undertaken the erection and maintenance of so many churches, chapels and schools.

The advent of the colored priests in the Diocese marks a new step in the work for our colored people. The enthusiasm with which they were received, and the splendid work they are doing in the three parishes now entirely under their direction, slay, for all time, the groundless and mischievous myth, that the colored people did not care to have priests of their own race to minister to them.

I am happy to take this opportunity to express again my most heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all those who have contributed to the growth and development of the work among our good colored people during the past twenty-five years.

With blessing and all good wishes, I am,

Very sincerely in Christ,

✠ JULES B. JEANMARD
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ANNIVERSARY IN LOUISIANA

CLARENCE J. HOWARD, S.V. D.

- Diocese with Largest Colored Catholic Population
- Commemorates Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Erection

Twenty-five years ago South-western Louisiana was detached from the Archdiocese of New Orleans and established as a separate diocese — the Diocese of Lafayette. Today this diocese — which comprises about one-third of the State of Louisiana — has more colored Catholics and more churches and chapels for the special use of colored Catholics than any other diocese in the United States.

Of the 307,000 Negro Catholics in the United States, the State of Louisiana alone has 113,000, of whom 60,000 — one-fifth of all



Church of Our Lady of the Assumption
Carencro, La.



St. Paul's Church, Lafayette, La.

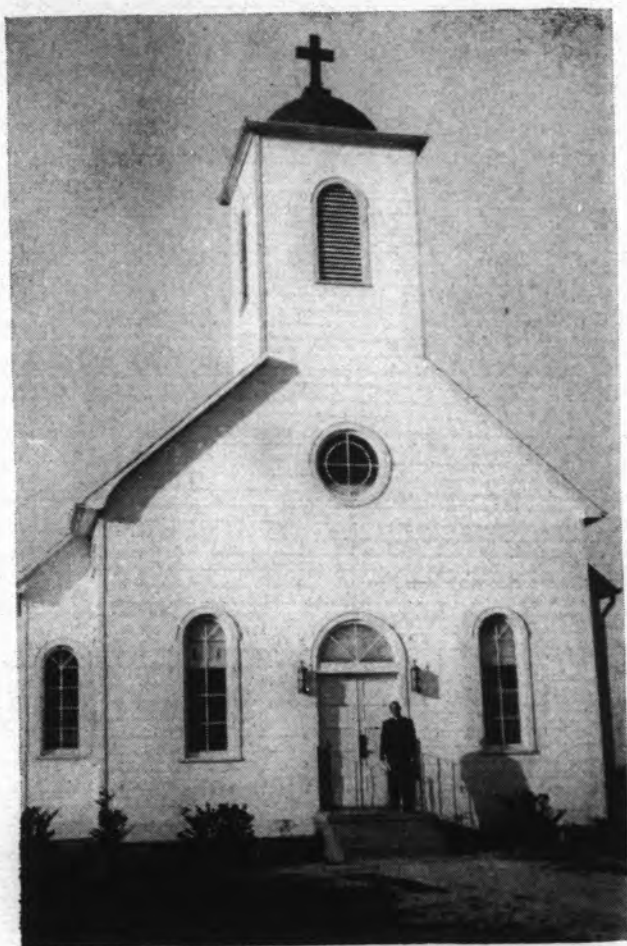
Negro Catholics in this country — belong to the Diocese of Lafayette. This high percentage is accounted for by the fact that just about one out of every three persons in Louisiana is a Catholic.

Louisiana was explored in 1682 by Sieur René Robert Cavelier de La Salle, who named it *Louisiane* in honor of Louis XIV of France. France claimed the territory and French Catholic colonists began settling there. In 1755 about 4,000 French Canadian Catholics, driven out of Acadia by the English, came to Louisiana to join the Catholic colonists there.

From 1762 till 1800 Louisiana belonged to Charles III of Spain, hence during that period many Spanish Catholics immigrated to Louisiana.

In 1809-1810 many colored Catholics from Haiti and Santo Do-

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER



St. Mathilda's Church, Eunice, La.

mingo, refugees from the revolution then raging in their own countries, came to the United States and many of them settled in Louisiana.

Thus when the Louisiana Territory was sold to the United States in 1803 the population of what is now the State of Louisiana was Catholic. Both French and Spanish priests worked for the spiritual welfare of both white and colored Catholics. Neither were the slaves neglected; priests zealously instructed and baptized them, and strove to improve their condition.

The Diocese of New Orleans was established in 1793. Fifty-seven years later it was made an Archdiocese. Three years later, in 1853, the Northern section of Louisiana was erected into the Diocese of Natchitoches (now the Diocese of Alexandria).

In 1918 the Diocese of Lafayette was erected in the Southwestern part of the State, and the Most Rev. Jules Benjamin Jeanmard, D.D., was consecrated as its first Bishop.

At this time there were four colored parishes within the limits of the new diocese: Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Carencro; Immaculate Conception Parish, LeBeau; St. Paul's Parish, Lafayette; and St. Edward's Parish, New Iberia. In other parts of the diocese colored and white Catholics attended the same churches. But the number of Catholics had increased, the comparatively few churches were overcrowded and, due to the scarcity of diocesan priests, there were not enough additional Masses. Consequently people began



Christ the King Church, Grand Coteau, La.

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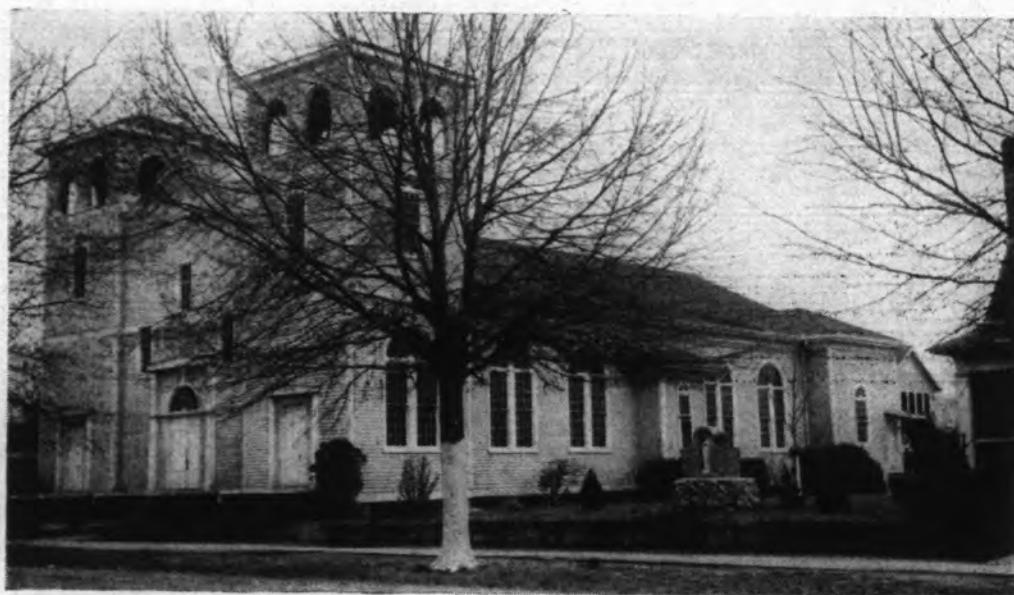
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Christ the King Church, Grand Coteau, La.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER



St.
Theresa's
Church,
Crowley,
La.

drifting away from the Church.

To remedy this situation, Bishop Jeanmard began to build more churches and schools. He invited religious communities to send into the diocese priests and Sisters who would devote their whole time to the care of the colored Catholics, reclaiming the fallen-aways, instructing the children, and administering to the spiritual needs of the faithful.

In answer to this invitation five communities of priests and four communities of Sisters began working in the Colored Missions of the Diocese of Lafayette. There are 15 Holy Ghost Fathers, 9 Fathers of the Divine Word, 7 Josephites and 2 Jesuits who devote all their time to the Colored Mission work, while 2 La-Salette Fathers and 5 diocesan priests spend part of their time caring for

Colored Mission churches, besides doing their regular parish work among the white Catholics. This gives a total of 40 priests engaged in the Lafayette Negro Apostolate.


Last year in the Diocese of Lafayette there were 2,413 babies of Negro Catholic parents baptized, and 169 adult Negro converts were received into the Church.

For the exclusive use of the Negro Catholics in the Diocese of Lafayette



ABOVE: Immaculate Con-
ception School, LeBeau, La.



 Pupils of Notre Dame
School, St. Martinville, La.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

Church of
Our Lady
of
Lourdes,
Abbeville,
La.



today there are 18 churches with resident pastors, 18 mission churches and chapels with no resident priest, and 6 mission stations with neither church nor school, but where Mass is said regularly. This makes a total of 42 Colored Missions.

For the colored Catholic children there are 32 Catholic grade schools and 6 Catholic high schools, including Holy Rosary Institute in Lafayette, La., which is a boarding school

for girls, one of the only two such colored Catholic schools in the State. These schools, which care for 5,193 pupils, are staffed by 60 Sisters (among whom are 34 Holy Family Sisters, 13 Blessed Sacrament Sisters, 10 Holy Ghost Sisters and 3 Religious of the Sacred Heart) and 56 lay teachers.

Almost one-fifth of the priests in the Colored Missions of the Diocese of Lafayette (7), over one-half of the Sisters (34), and all the lay teachers are colored.



ABOVE: St. Mathilda's
School, Eunice, La.

CALLING ALL —

SOLDIERS! SAILORS! MARINES!

We invite men and women in the Armed Forces to write to us. We want to publish your letters in **ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER** for the benefit of the folks at home.

— THE EDITOR

Some of the lay teachers who staff many of the Catholic rural schools in Louisiana



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SHEPHERD ALSO OF "THE LEAST"

VERY REV. JOSEPH F. ECKERT, S.V.D.

- Bishop Jeanmard Takes Zealous Care of Colored Catholics
- And Advocates More Colored Priests

The Most Reverend Jules B. Jeanmard, D.D., will celebrate the Silver Jubilee of his consecration as the first Bishop of Lafayette, La., on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. In the midst of a zealous clergy and loyal people he will offer up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in thanksgiving to God. The twenty-five years as Bishop of Lafayette have been crowded with many successful activities, such as the establishing of new parishes and building institutions, and securing more priests to fully satisfy the spiritual needs of the ever-growing Catholic population of Southwestern Louisiana. This territory is famous for its rich and fertile plantations and for the fervent Catholic life of the descendants of the Acadians, who in the middle of the 18th century were brutally deported from their homeland in Nova Scotia because they refused to give up their Faith. Our charming American poet Longfellow has immortalized their tragic story in the unforgettable *Evangeline*.

One of the outstanding achievements of Bishop Jeanmard will always remain the spiritual care of the 60,000 Catholic Negroes living in his diocese. Many live scattered on large sugar and rice plantations and they belong mostly to the unfortunate share-cropper class. They are poor in the goods of this world and have little or no education. However, deep in their hearts they possess the Faith which produces inspir-

ing examples of religious practices, such as walking on muddy roads for six or seven miles to Sunday Mass and daily family recitation of the Rosary. The Catholic influence has added a certain refinement to their character which distinguishes them from the colored people of the other States.

Bishop Jeanmard was born and reared in the midst of these people at Breaux Bridge, La. From his early youth he was well acquainted with their sufferings and heard their just longings for the better things of life. He learned to know their shortcomings, but also their good qualities and virtues. His well-known charity and sense of justice made him eager to help them to improve their conditions, should he ever be able to do so. For to him "there is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor freeman. For you are all one in Christ Jesus" (*Gal. 3, 28*).

No wonder that Bishop Jeanmard became the avowed fearless champion of their just cause, who tried to raise them to a higher cultural level, to alleviate their sufferings and bring the Church right into their midst. Whenever funds were available and circumstances permitted, he organized new parishes and missions for them and placed them in the care of priests who could give the people their full attention. In season and out of season, in pastoral letters, sermons, public addresses and open letters to the daily newspaper, he pleaded in a forceful but also tact-



BISHOP JEANMARD WITH THE LARGE CLASS HE HAS JUST CONFIRMED
in one of the rural mission churches in his diocese

ful way for social justice for them, for more and better school and hospital facilities.

The results have been astounding, far beyond everybody's expectation. There are 42 parishes and mission stations for the colored people with 40 priests caring for them. Over 5,100 children are attending the Catholic schools, almost the only schools worthwhile for the colored children to go to. Indeed, one may truly say without any exaggeration that his zeal and keen foresight have saved the colored people of Louisiana for our Faith. He has won the full confidence and affectionate love of the colored people and the admiration and respect of his priests and the white laity.

In the pages of the History of the Church of America, *Bishop Jeanmard will be specially remembered as the foremost advocate of the Colored Priesthood and as the one who assured the ultimate success of St.*

Augustine's Seminary. He realized only too well that if Negroes are to be converted and kept in the Faith, there must be Negro priests together with white priests. When in May, 1934, the first four colored priests of our Society were ordained at St. Augustine's Seminary, and were eager to go forth and preach, baptize and offer up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Bishop Jeanmard placed them in charge of the large new parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Lafayette, La., with over 2,000 colored Catholics. Later he entrusted two more parishes and four Missions to their care, among which is St. Martinville, La., one of the largest parishes for the Catholic colored people in the South. *Today over 6,800 colored Catholics are under the spiritual care of our colored Fathers.* It was a daring undertaking, severely criticized and doomed to utter failure by a certain Negro-baiting element which considers all Negroes

SHEPHERD ALSO OF "THE LEAST"

VERY REV. JOSEPH F. ECKERT, S.V.D.

- Bishop Jeanmard Takes Zealous Care of Colored Catholics
- And Advocates More Colored Priests

The Most Reverend Jules B. Jeanmard, D.D., will celebrate the Silver Jubilee of his consecration as the first Bishop of Lafayette, La., on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. In the midst of a zealous clergy and loyal people he will offer up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in thanksgiving to God. The twenty-five years as Bishop of Lafayette have been crowded with many successful activities, such as the establishing of new parishes and building institutions, and securing more priests to fully satisfy the spiritual needs of the ever-growing Catholic population of Southwestern Louisiana. This territory is famous for its rich and fertile plantations and for the fervent Catholic life of the descendants of the Acadians, who in the middle of the 18th century were brutally deported from their homeland in Nova Scotia because they refused to give up their Faith. Our charming American poet Longfellow has immortalized their tragic story in the unforgettable *Evangeline*.

One of the outstanding achievements of Bishop Jeanmard will always remain the spiritual care of the 60,000 Catholic Negroes living in his diocese. Many live scattered on large sugar and rice plantations and they belong mostly to the unfortunate share-cropper class. They are poor in the goods of this world and have little or no education. However, deep in their hearts they possess the Faith which produces inspir-

ing examples of religious practices, such as walking on muddy roads for six or seven miles to Sunday Mass and daily family recitation of the Rosary. The Catholic influence has added a certain refinement to their character which distinguishes them from the colored people of the other States.

Bishop Jeanmard was born and reared in the midst of these people at Breau Bridge, La. From his early youth he was well acquainted with their sufferings and heard their just longings for the better things of life. He learned to know their shortcomings, but also their good qualities and virtues. His well-known charity and sense of justice made him eager to help them to improve their conditions, should he ever be able to do so. For to him "there is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor freeman. For you are all one in Christ Jesus" (*Gal. 3, 28*).

No wonder that Bishop Jeanmard became the avowed fearless champion of their just cause, who tried to raise them to a higher cultural level, to alleviate their sufferings and bring the Church right into their midst. Whenever funds were available and circumstances permitted, he organized new parishes and missions for them and placed them in the care of priests who could give the people their full attention. In season and out of season, in pastoral letters, sermons, public addresses and open letters to the daily newspaper, he pleaded in a forceful but also tact-



BISHOP JEANMARD WITH THE LARGE CLASS HE HAS JUST CONFIRMED
in one of the rural mission churches in his diocese

ful way for social justice for them, for more and better school and hospital facilities.

The results have been astounding, far beyond everybody's expectation. There are 42 parishes and mission stations for the colored people with 40 priests caring for them. Over 5,100 children are attending the Catholic schools, almost the only schools worthwhile for the colored children to go to. Indeed, one may truly say without any exaggeration that his zeal and keen foresight have saved the colored people of Louisiana for our Faith. He has won the full confidence and affectionate love of the colored people and the admiration and respect of his priests and the white laity.

In the pages of the History of the Church of America, *Bishop Jeanmard will be specially remembered as the foremost advocate of the Colored Priesthood and as the one who assured the ultimate success of St.*

Augustine's Seminary. He realized only too well that if Negroes are to be converted and kept in the Faith, there must be Negro priests together with white priests. When in May, 1934, the first four colored priests of our Society were ordained at St. Augustine's Seminary, and were eager to go forth and preach, baptize and offer up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Bishop Jeanmard placed them in charge of the large new parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Lafayette, La., with over 2,000 colored Catholics. Later he entrusted two more parishes and four Missions to their care, among which is St. Martinville, La., one of the largest parishes for the Catholic colored people in the South. *Today over 6,800 colored Catholics are under the spiritual care of our colored Fathers.* It was a daring undertaking, severely criticized and doomed to utter failure by a certain Negro-baiting element which considers all Negroes

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

too inferior to accomplish anything worthwhile, even if they are priests well-trained and educated for fourteen years after a successful grammar school.

Last year on the occasion of the annual Catholic Rural Life Conference of the South at St. Stanislaus' College, Bay Saint Louis, Miss., Bishop Jeanmard gave a stirring address to a group of over 60 priests on the Catholic Church and the Negro in the South. In an eloquent way he asked the help of all priests for better economic conditions, for more and better schools and hospitals, and above all, *for more priests for the Southern Negroes*. He added his own personal observations and experiences of the work of the first colored priests of his diocese. They were decidedly good and deserve more public attention.

He laid strong emphasis on the fact that the colored people want and prefer their own priests; that they respect them as much as any other priests; they cooperate with them in all phases of parish life and help to make their priestly and administrative efforts very satisfactory and fruitful. Colored priests have become by their priestly and tactful conduct an important factor in establishing better race relations between the white and the colored, nay, have won the respect of the townspeople. Bishop Jeanmard feels convinced that the colored priesthood has proved its worth in a crucial test. Indeed, more forceful and encouraging words for the necessity of a Native Priesthood, outside those of our late Holy Father Pius XI, I have not heard or read. Bishop Jeanmard has by his courageous attitude publicly

vindicated the farsightedness of the pioneer champions of the Negro Priesthood in this country twenty years ago, and the fact that qualified and well disciplined Negro youths are capable of becoming zealous priests and efficient pastors.

The Society of the Divine Word will ever be grateful to Bishop Jeanmard for the active interest and encouragement given to our colored Fathers. They will never forget his fatherly solicitude and Christlike kindness to them. It is our wish and prayer that God keep Bishop Jeanmard for many more years as the true Shepherd of all, the people and the priests. *Ad multos annos!*



Rev. Leander Martin, S.V.D., of Grand Coteau, La., the second Negro from the Lafayette Diocese to be ordained to the Priesthood. The first was Rev. Anthony Bourges, S.V.D., of Lafayette, ordained in 1934. Father Martin was ordained in 1941. Both Fathers are now working in the Lafayette Diocese

Negro Priests in the Lafayette Diocese

CLARENCE J. HOWARD, S.V. D.

- Nine Years of Mission Work in the Diocese
- Have Brought Fruitful Results

Of the eighteen Negro priests in the United States today, seven are working in the Diocese of Lafayette, La. This is the largest number of Negro priests in any single diocese in the country.

These Fathers, all of them members of the Society of the Divine Word, have the spiritual care of 6,880 Catholics, with 7 churches and 4 schools in two counties (or parishes, as they are called in Louisiana). Two of these schools are conducted by Sisters and the other two by lay teachers. 772 children attend these schools, all of which are crowded.

The first four Negro priests of the Society of the Divine Word, ordained at St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay Saint Louis, Miss., in 1934, came to Lafayette soon after Ordination at the invitation of Most Rev. Jules B. Jeanmard, D.D., Bishop of Lafayette. The newly erected Parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Lafayette was turned over to their care, and in 1939 one of their number was appointed pastor. Today there are three Divine Word Fa-



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Last year the Fathers built St. John Vianney's Church and School



Fathers Maurice Rousseve, S.V. D., and Leander Martin, S.V. D., with the teachers of their mission school. 6 Sisters and 6 lay teachers work with the 7 colored Fathers in caring for 772 pupils in their 4 mission schools

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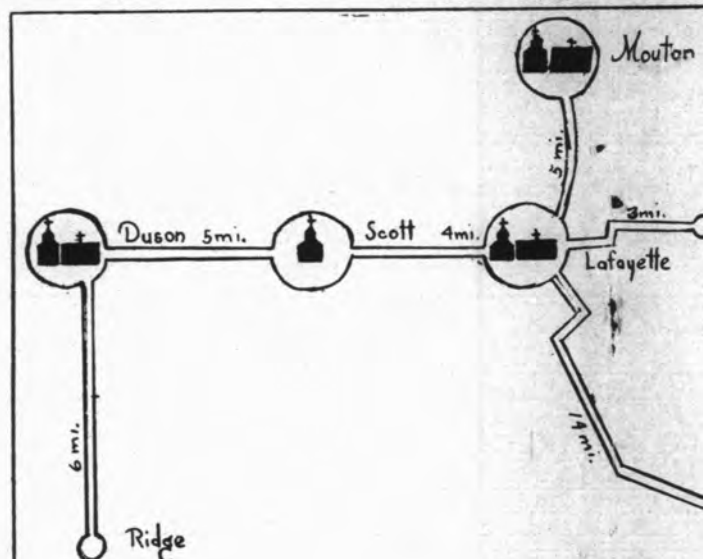
NOTRE DAME CHURCH AND SCHOOL, ST. MARTINVILLE, LA.
2,200 Catholics; 2 Blessed Sacrament Sisters, 2 lay teachers; 286 pupils

in Mouton Switch, about five miles from Lafayette. One of the priests from the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church takes care of this mission.

In 1936 the Bishop asked the Fathers to see what could be done for the colored Catholics in the Duson and Scott area. There had once been a small church, located between the two towns, but it had been destroyed by a fire. One of the colored Fathers immediately set to work contacting the scattered people and celebrating Sunday Mass for them. By the following year a rectory and a combination church and school, dedicated to St. Benedict the Moor, had been built in Duson, and the Church of Blessed Martin de Porres had



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH, LAFAYETTE, LA.
2,000 Catholics; 4 Holy Family Sisters



Louisiana Missions
under the care of
Colored Priests
of the
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OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH, ST. JOHN, LA.
480 Catholics

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH, CADE, LA.
566 Catholics

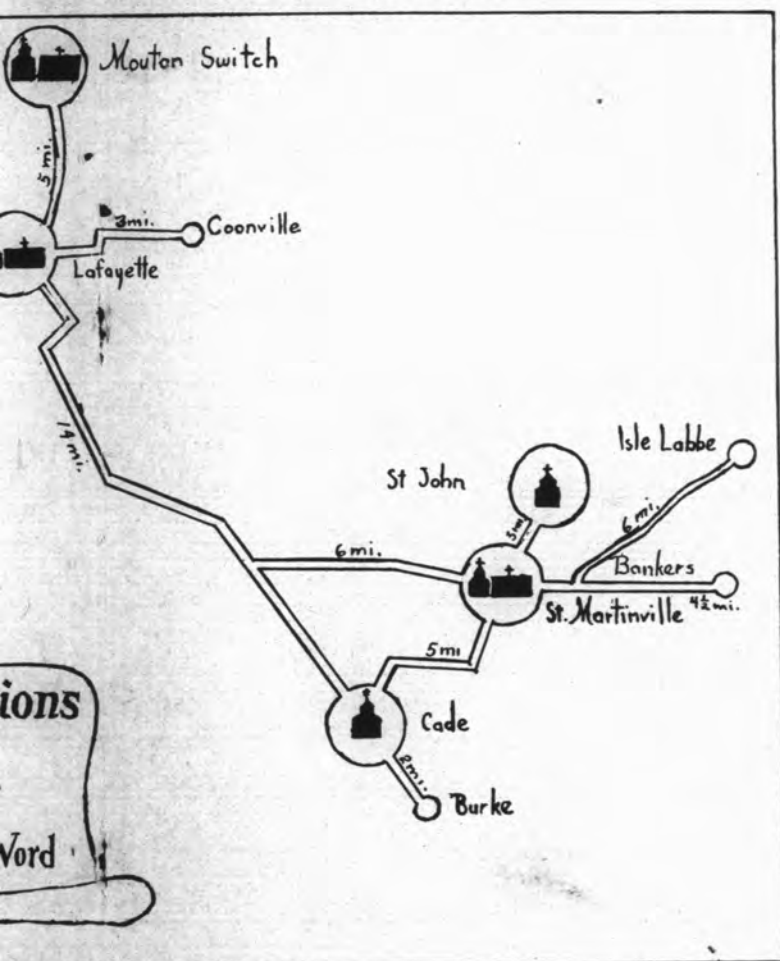




**THE HEART OF MARY PARISH
LAFAYETTE, LA.**
4 Holy Family Sisters; 170 pupils



ST. JOHN VIANNEY MISSION, MOUTON SWITCH, LA.
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(Continued on page 239)



**ST. BENEDICT'S
CHURCH AND
SCHOOL, DUSON,
LA.**

535 Catholics; 2
lay teachers; 106
pupils

(Not shown is
Blessed Martin's
Mission, Scott, La.
600 Catholics)

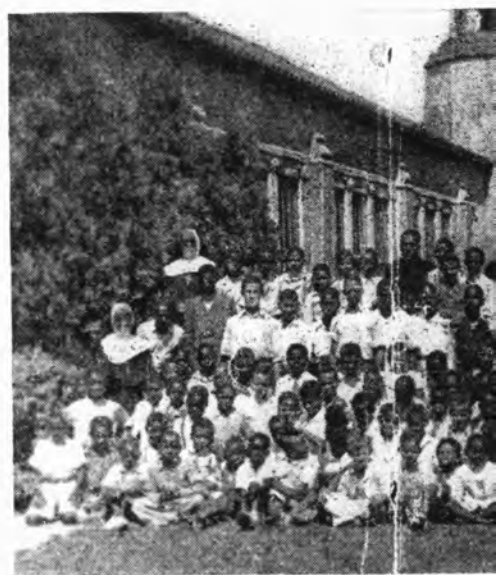




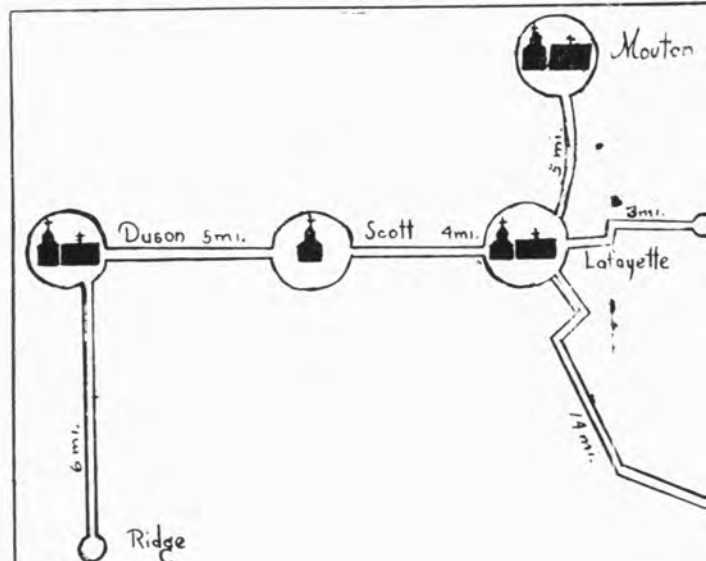
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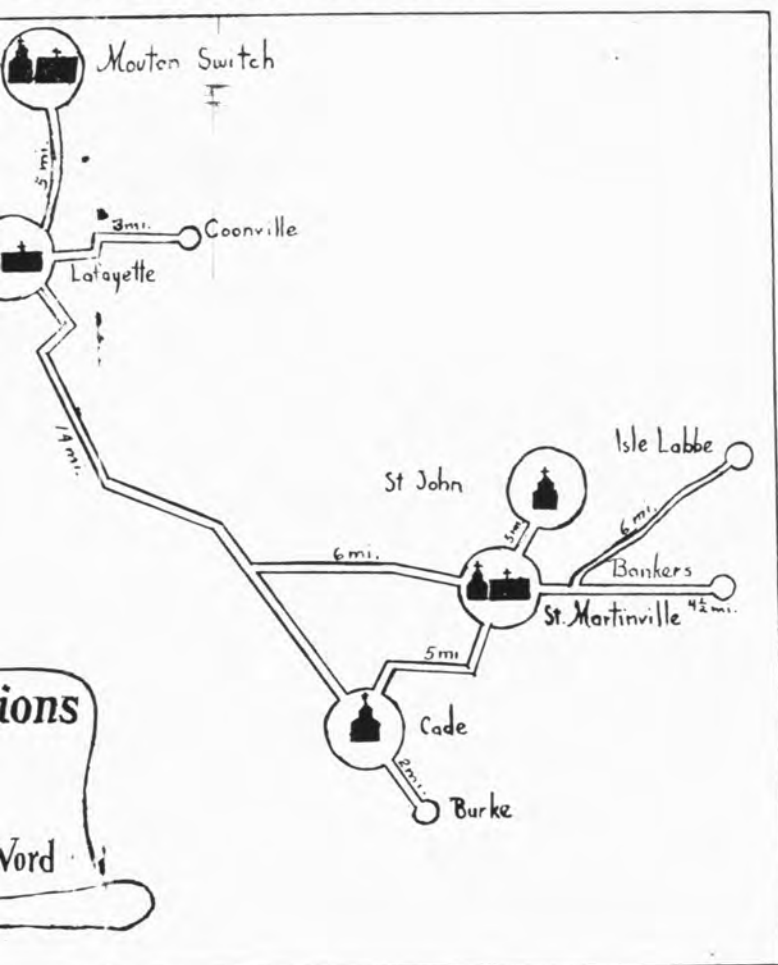




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Colored Seminarians from the Lafayette Diocese



DEACON

Pictured with the Most Rev. Richard O. Gerow, D.D., Bishop of Natchez, is the Rev. Frater Harold Perry, S.V.D., who was ordained as Deacon on November 30. Frater Perry is a native of Lake Charles, La. He will be ordained to the Priesthood at St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Miss., on January 6, 1944



MAJOR SEMINARIANS

Frater Vernon Dauphin, S.V.D. (Opelousas, La.), and Frater Mark Figaro, S.V.D. (Lafayette, La.), who are now in their second year of Philosophy and will be ordained in 1949



NOVICES

Fraters Verlin LeDoux (Lake Charles, La.), John LaBauve (Abbeville, La.), and Leonard Olivier (Lake Charles, La.) are at present in the clerical novitiate at St. Mary's Mission House, Techny, Ill.



JUNIOR SEMINARIAN

Frater Joseph Francis, S.V.D., of Lafayette, La., who has reached the halfway mark toward the Priesthood



RELIGIOUS BROTHERS

Brother Lawrence, S.V.D. (Grand Coteau, La.), and Brother Bonaventure, S.V.D. (LeBeau, La.), with a candidate for the Brotherhood — Theo. Charles of Grand Coteau, La.



MINOR SEMINARIANS

Seated — Paul Fontenot (Crowley, La.), Linwood Singleton (Lake Charles, La.), Fisher Robinson (Abbeville, La.), Raymond Guidry (Abbeville, La.), Jerome LeDoux (Lake Charles)
 Standing — August Thompson (Baldwin, La.), Rufus Handy (Grand Coteau, La.), Paul Babin (Lafayette, La.), Joseph Guidry (Abbeville, La.), William Chevis (Grand Coteau, La.), Tilden LeMelle (New Iberia, La.), and Hubert Singleton (Lake Charles, La.)

Colored Missions in the Diocese of Lafayette, La.

LAFAYETTE	Priests	Pupils		Sisters	Lay Teachers
		Grades	High Sch.		
St. Paul's	3 Holy Ghost	246	63	7 Holy Family	1
Mission: Good Hope Hall					
Immaculate Heart of Mary	3 Divine Word	170		4 Holy Family	2
Mission: St. John Vianney (Mouton Switch)		210			
Holy Rosary Institute	1 Divine Word	133	60	7 Holy Family	1
ABBEVILLE					
Our Lady of Lourdes	1 Holy Ghost	127			2
BREAUX BRIDGE					
St. Francis of Assisi	1 Josephite	266		4 Holy Family	
BROUSSARD					
St. Joseph's School		148			2
CARENCRO					
Our Lady of the Assumption	1 Holy Ghost	276			5
Mission: St. Theresa's (Prairie Basse)		39			1
CHURCH POINT					
Our Mother of Mercy	1 Josephite	124			2
COULÉE CROCHE					
St. Katharine's School		65			2
CREOLE					
St. Hubert's Mission (attended by secular from Sacred Heart, Cameron)					
CROWLEY					
St. Theresa's	1 Josephite	217		5 Holy Ghost	
DELCAMBRE					
Our Lady of the Lake School		59			1
DE QUINCY					
Blessed Martin de Porres Mission (attended by LaSalette from St. Joseph's, De Ridder)					
DUSON					
St. Benedict the Moor	1 Divine Word	106			2
Mission: Bl. Martin de Porres (Scott)					

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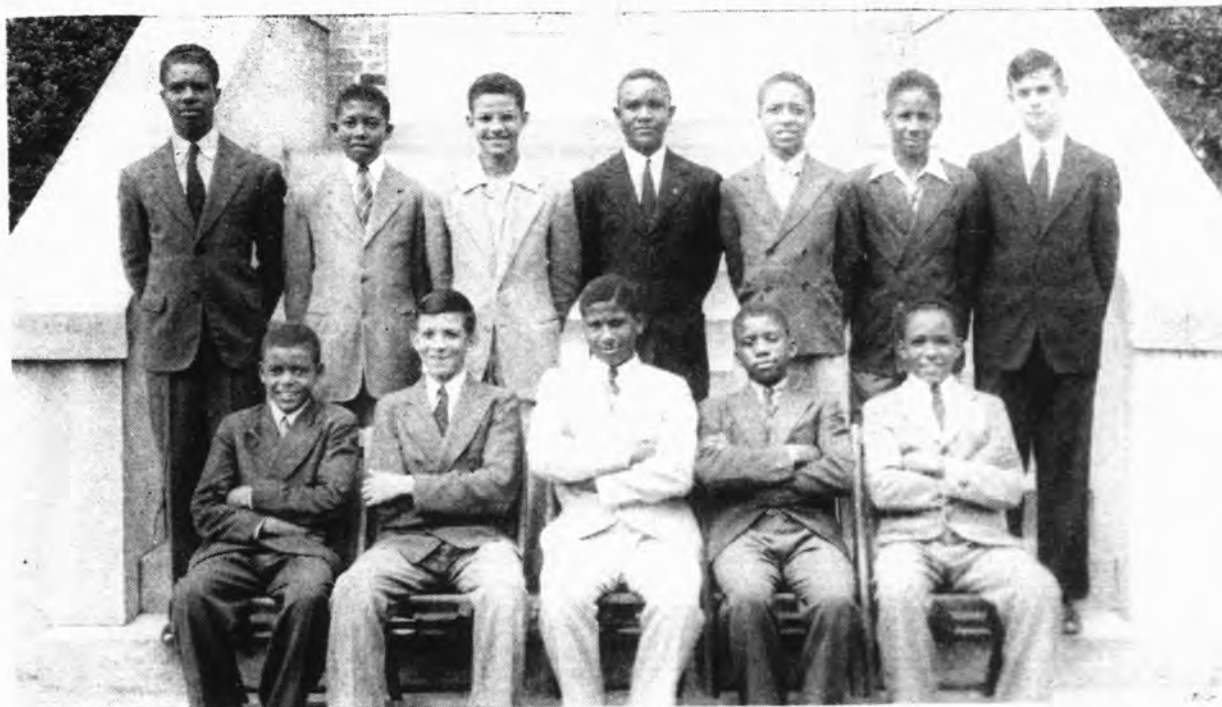
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	Priests	Pupils		Sisters	Lay Teachers
		Grades	High Sch.		
LAFAYETTE					
St. Paul's	3 Holy Ghost	246	63	7 Holy Family	1
Mission: Good Hope Hall					
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St. Joseph's School		148			2
CARENCRO					
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Mission: St. Theresa's		39			1
(Prairie Basse)					
CHURCH POINT					
Our Mother of Mercy	1 Josephite	124			2
COULÉE CROCHE					
St. Katharine's School		65			2
CREOLE					
St. Hubert's Mission (attended by secular from Sacred Heart, Cameron)					
CROWLEY					
St. Theresa's	1 Josephite	217		5 Holy Ghost	
DELCAMBRE					
Our Lady of the Lake School		59			1
DE QUINCY					
Blessed Martin de Porres Mission (attended by LaSalette from St. Joseph's, De Ridder)					
DUSON					
St. Benedict the Moor	1 Divine Word	106			2
Mission: Bl. Martin de Porres (Scott)					

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

	Priests	Pupils		Sisters	Lay Teachers
		Grades	High Sch.		
EUNICE					
St. Mathilda's	1 Josephite	100			2
Mission: St. Monica's (Tyrone)		65			1
Mission: Lance de Rougeau					
FRANKLIN					
St. Jules' School	1 Divine Word	51			1
Mission: Mother of Grace (Verdunville)					
GLENCOE					
St. Peter's School		50			1
GRAND COTEAU					
Christ the King	2 Jesuits	276		3 Sacred Heart	4
Mission: Christ the King (Bellevue)		205		4 Holy Family	
JULIEN HILL					
St. Peter's Mission (attended by secular from Sacred Heart, Baldwin)		54			2
LAKE CHARLES					
Sacred Heart	4 Holy Ghost	406	96	5 Bl. Sacrament	7
LEBEAU					
Immaculate Conception	1 Josephite	187	21	5 Holy Ghost	1
Mission: Sacred Heart (Rideau)		49			
LEONVILLE					
St. Leo's School		185			3
MALLET					
St. Ann's Mission (attended by secular from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Chataignier)		160			2
MAMOU					
St. Theresa's School		71			2
Mission: Jean Reed (attended by secular from St. Ann, Mamou)					
Mission: Little Flower (attended by secular from St. Ann, Mamou)		68			2
NEW IBERIA					
St. Edward's	2 Holy Ghost	231	53	6 Bl. Sacrament	1
OPELOUSAS					
Holy Ghost	4 Holy Ghost	415	109	8 Holy Family	2
Mission: St. Joseph's (Plaisance)					
Mission: Frilot Cove					
Mission: Plaquemine Point					
Mission: Prairie Laurent					
PARKS					
Mission Chapel (attended by secular from St. Joseph, Parks)					
RAYNE					
Our Mother of Mercy	1 Josephite	100			2
ST. MARTINVILLE					
Notre Dame	3 Divine Word	286		2 Bl. Sacrament	2
Mission: Our Lady of Perpetual Help (St. John)					
Mission: St. Anthony's (Cade)					
VINTON					
St. John Baptist's Mission (attended by LaSalette from St. Joseph, Vinton)					
WELSH					
St. Joseph's	1 Josephite				
Mission: Sacred Heart (Jennings)					
TOTALS	40	4,791	402	60	56

DECEMBER'S SAINTS

Dec. 8 — Immaculate Conception

By a special favor of Almighty God Mary's soul was preserved from the stain of every sin, original sin included. This was indeed fitting, for through Mary the Divine Redeemer was to enter this world. The respect and reverence accorded women by western nations is the result of the beneficial influence of our Catholic faith which has always highly esteemed womanhood, for of that same sex is the spotless and immaculate Mary, the Mother of God and our Mother. Remember that our country is dedicated to Mary under her special title of Immaculate Conception. Recommend to Mary all the women of this country.

Dec. 10 — St. Melchiades

Although he did not shed his blood in defense of the faith, yet the trials he endured for its sake earned for this energetic Pope the title of Martyr. Melchiades was chosen Pope in the beginning of the fourth century when the Church was suffering fierce persecution at the hands of the cruel Emperor Maximian. At the time of his death, however, he experienced the marvelous change from persecution to peace. Our present Pope, Pius XII, is in somewhat similar circumstances. Pray for his intentions, world-wide lasting peace.

Dec. 25 — Christmas

The exterior trimmings, e.g., toys, candy, etc., usually present on this day will be absent in many homes this year. Yet there is no reason why the true Christmas joy and happiness this feast brings should be missing this year. To all who sincerely try to please Him, rest assured God will see to it that such souls



"...for there has been born to you today in the town of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

will enjoy that peace which is a foretaste of the joys of heaven. The lesson of love for mankind is the one the Infant Babe teaches us in today's feast. Today, as on the first Christmas, the world stands in dire need of this divine lesson. At your Christmas Mass (or Masses) ask Him to teach all of us how to love Him and our fellowmen more and more.

Dec. 28 — Holy Innocents

In order to be sure that the Child Jesus would be killed, the tyrant Herod ordered that all male children up to two years of age should be murdered. For the sake of Jesus these innocents were put to death. Rightly, then, are they honored as "the Flowers of the Martyrs" by the Church. Who is not captivated by the gem of innocence shining so clearly on the faces of little children? Thousands have kept that baptismal innocence throughout life while those who have lost it have repaired it by sincere sorrow and true amendment of life. Pray today that all parents may take proper care of their children.

Dec. 29—St. Thomas of Canterbury

Ever since St. Paul exhorted Timothy and Titus to preach the Word of God in season and out of season, saintly men have defended that special privilege of the Church, her freedom from earthly power. The expression "liberty of the Church" has been and is today distasteful to diplomats and politicians. But intrepid popes and bishops have proclaimed aloud her special rights. Rather than subject his flock to the enslaving policies of the English king, Henry II, the noble Bishop Thomas of Canterbury was murdered in his own Cathedral.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

	Priests	Pupils		Sisters	Lay Teachers
		Grades	High Sch.		
EUNICE					
St. Mathilda's	1 Josephite	100			2
Mission: St. Monica's (Tyrone)		65			1
Mission: Lance de Rougeau					
FRANKLIN					
St. Jules' School	1 Divine Word	51			1
Mission: Mother of Grace (Verdunville)					
GLENCOE					
St. Peter's School		50			1
GRAND COTEAU					
Christ the King	2 Jesuits	276		3 Sacred Heart	4
Mission: Christ the King (Bellevue)		205		4 Holy Family	
JULIEN HILL					
St. Peter's Mission (attended by secular from Sacred Heart, Baldwin)		54			2
LAKE CHARLES					
Sacred Heart	4 Holy Ghost	406	96	5 Bl. Sacrament	7
LEBEAU					
Immaculate Conception	1 Josephite	187	21	5 Holy Ghost	
Mission: Sacred Heart (Rideau)		49			1
LEONVILLE					
St. Leo's School		185			3
MALLET					
St. Ann's Mission (attended by secular from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Chataignier)		160			2
MAMOU					
St. Theresa's School		71			2
Mission: Jean Reed (attended by secular from St. Ann, Mamou)					
Mission: Little Flower (attended by secular (Pins Clairs) from St. Ann, Mamou)		68			2
NEW IBERIA					
St. Edward's	2 Holy Ghost	231	53	6 Bl. Sacrament	1
OPELOUSAS					
Holy Ghost	4 Holy Ghost	415	109	8 Holy Family	2
Mission: St. Joseph's (Plaisance)					
Mission: Frilot Cove					
Mission: Plaquemine Point					
Mission: Prairie Laurent					
PARKS					
Mission Chapel (attended by secular from St. Joseph, Parks)					
RAYNE					
Our Mother of Mercy	1 Josephite	100			2
ST. MARTINVILLE					
Notre Dame	3 Divine Word	286		2 Bl. Sacrament	2
Mission: Our Lady of Perpetual Help (St. John)					
Mission: St. Anthony's (Cade)					
VINTON					
St. John Baptist's Mission (attended by LaSalette from St. Joseph, Vinton)					
WELSH					
St. Joseph's	1 Josephite				
Mission: Sacred Heart (Jennings)					
TOTALS	40	4,791	402	60	56

DECEMBER'S SAINTS

Dec. 8 — Immaculate Conception

By a special favor of Almighty God Mary's soul was preserved from the stain of every sin, original sin included. This was indeed fitting, for through Mary the Divine Redeemer was to enter this world. The respect and reverence accorded women by western nations is the result of the beneficial influence of our Catholic faith which has always highly esteemed womanhood, for of that same sex is the spotless and immaculate Mary, the Mother of God and our Mother. Remember that our country is dedicated to Mary under her special title of Immaculate Conception. Recommend to Mary all the women of this country.

Dec. 10 — St. Melchiades

Although he did not shed his blood in defense of the faith, yet the trials he endured for its sake earned for this energetic Pope the title of Martyr. Melchiades was chosen Pope in the beginning of the fourth century when the Church was suffering fierce persecution at the hands of the cruel Emperor Maximian. At the time of his death, however, he experienced the marvelous change from persecution to peace. Our present Pope, Pius XII, is in somewhat similar circumstances. Pray for his intentions, world-wide lasting peace.

Dec. 25 — Christmas

The exterior trimmings, e.g., toys, candy, etc., usually present on this day will be absent in many homes this year. Yet there is no reason why the true Christmas joy and happiness this feast brings should be missing this year. To all who sincerely try to please Him, rest assured God will see to it that such souls



"...for there has been born to you today in the town of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

will enjoy that peace which is a foretaste of the joys of heaven. The lesson of love for mankind is the one the Infant Babe teaches us in today's feast. Today, as on the first Christmas, the world stands in dire need of this divine lesson. At your Christmas Mass (or Masses) ask Him to teach all of us how to love Him and our fellowmen more and more.

Dec. 28 — Holy Innocents

In order to be sure that the Child Jesus would be killed, the tyrant Herod ordered that all male children up to two years of age should be murdered. For the sake of Jesus these innocents were put to death. Rightly, then, are they honored as "the Flowers of the Martyrs" by the Church. Who is not captivated by the gem of innocence shining so clearly on the faces of little children? Thousands have kept that baptismal innocence throughout life while those who have lost it have repaired it by sincere sorrow and true amendment of life. Pray today that all parents may take proper care of their children.

Dec. 29—St. Thomas of Canterbury

Ever since St. Paul exhorted Timothy and Titus to preach the Word of God in season and out of season, saintly men have defended that special privilege of the Church, her freedom from earthly power. The expression "liberty of the Church" has been and is today distasteful to diplomats and politicians. But intrepid popes and bishops have proclaimed aloud her special rights. Rather than subject his flock to the enslaving policies of the English king, Henry II, the noble Bishop Thomas of Canterbury was murdered in his own Cathedral.

Seminary News

Well, folks, here we are once again extending sunny greetings to each other! Let us hope that this commentary script will convey to you in a more intimate manner the life and fine spirit of seminary life.

Family Feast

This traditional holiday in our Society dawned bright and sunny. After breakfast *The Event* took place — the annual baseball fray between the major seminarians and the minor seminarians.

Father Christian Baker, Professor of Dogmatic Theology and Biology, coached the Fraters thoroughly in every detail of baseball strategy, and the results of this intelligent practice were duly applied in the game to the great fear of opponents.

Frater William Adams pitched a steady game after several hits from the students in the first inning. The students' battery, Carlson and Honoré, coordinated their athletic abilities to achieve a brilliant victory for the students.

The exciting point of the game came in the last half of the eighth inning when the Fraters rallied and "chalked up" seven runs. The final score was 8 to 9 in favor of the students. And it did one good to see the young chests swelling away. But, W-E-B-Y-S-S-I-N-I-A again next year, younglings!

In the evening we were treated to the movie, "The Star Maker."

Visitors

The Rev. Peter Cinikas, M.I.C., Business Manager of the Chicago Lithuanian Catholic daily *Draugas*, spent a few days of vacation with us. * * * Our good friend Father Vincent Warren, S.S.J., made his usual intimate and inspiring visit. Accompanying Father Warren were three Dominican nuns, Sisters Estelle and Vincentia, who teach in Father's school in Mobile, Ala., and Sister Amata, who had come from the

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Ordinations

Another memorable and blessed event was added to the archives of our Seminary October 18, when His Excellency, the Most Reverend Richard O. Gerow, D.D., Bishop of Natchez, Mississippi, conferred the first Major Order of Subdiaconate upon Fr. Harold Perry of Lake Charles, La., and two Minor Orders of Ostiariate and Lectorate upon Frater William Adams of Cambridge, Mass. Twenty priests and three Holy Family Nuns of New Orleans, La., together with other visitors were in attendance for the occasion.

At the end of the ceremonies His Excellency preached a short and eloquent sermon concerning the gradual and definite outline which Holy Mother Church pursues in leading young men to the Holy Priesthood of Christ. Finally the Bishop extended warm congratulations to the ordinands for the excellent perseverance which they have displayed thus far in their noble and sublime calling as students of the priesthood.

JUST LIKE US

ARTHUR C. WINTERS, S.V. D.



Just like an ordinary babe,
That nestles on its mother's breast,
That blinks itself awake at morn,
Or shuts its eyes for evening's rest;
The little Lord came down one day,
To steal the hearts of men away.

Just like an ordinary babe,
With little features calm and still,
Or flushed and happy at the way
Its mother bears it where she will,
The little Lord still fresh from birth,
Looked out upon our wretched earth.

Just like an ordinary child
That learns to walk at mother's knee,
And takes its first short steps the while
She guards and watches lovingly,
The little Savior, small and sweet,
Began to walk with tiny Feet.

Just like an ordinary boy,
That grows up in his little world,
Where love o'er all holds gentle sway,
And reason slowly is unfurled,
The little Jesus grew in grace,
And pleased the Father's eager Face.

Just like us common folk who feel
The heat and sting of daily strife,
Who carve our fate with shaking hands
From out the huge rough block of life,
The little Jesus suffered, too,
And felt pain as in age He grew.

Just like us common folk — but no! —
In one thing differed He — just one!
For sin could never be allied
With Him Who was the Father's Son.
He came — the little Lord — to save
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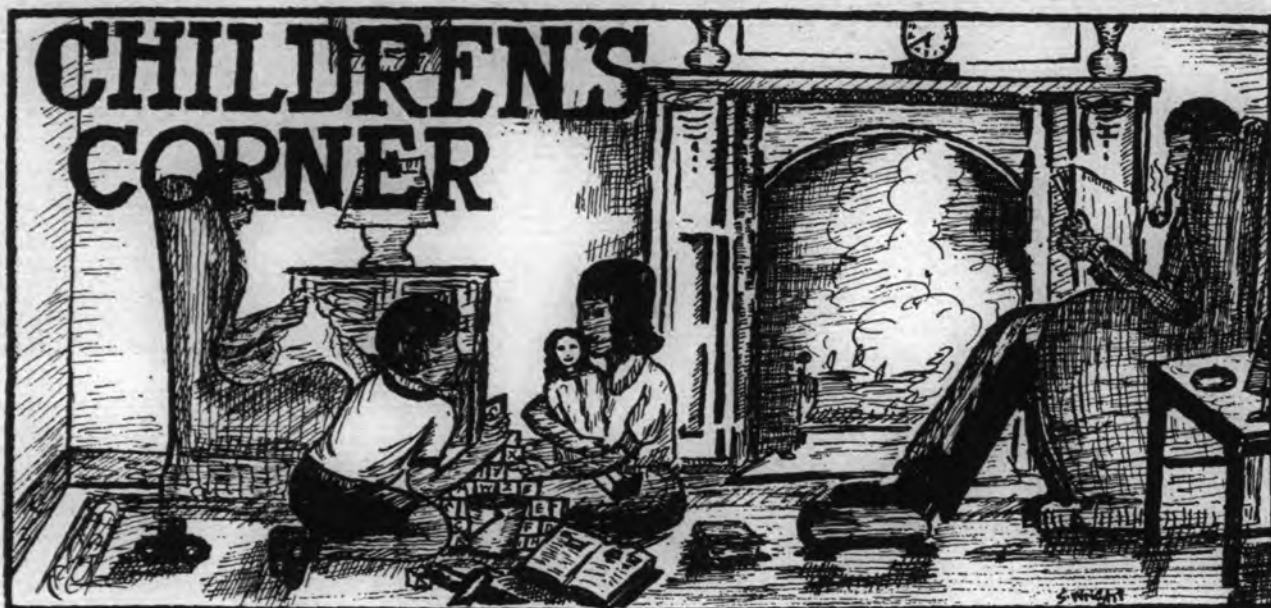
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My dear Boys and Girls:

Here it is Christmas again! And don't you feel just grand! I think that I like Christmastime just about the best of the whole year. Everybody seems to feel so happy, and they try to make others feel happy, too. I like to see people happy.

And that reminds me to ask: What are we going to do about making the dear little Baby Jesus happy on Christmas? Now, the way I look at it, it seems that we ought to get ready for Christmas by thinking more about the Baby Jesus than about Santa Claus, or the presents or toys we expect to get. Of course, the Baby Jesus wants us to be happy with presents and toys, too; but He certainly does not want us to forget Him.

So think more about the Baby Jesus, how He became a little Baby just so He could help us to be good children and get to Heaven. And then on Christmas morning when you go to Holy Mass, let

the dear Jesus come into your heart in Holy Communion. You could not begin Christmas Day in a better way.

MY MAIL BAG

Dear Father Howard: Just last Friday I received a letter from an African boy, Francis Brown, in the Catholic Mission of Accra, British West Africa. I was very pleased and happy. I shall never be able to thank you enough for printing my last letter in **ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER**. (Francis received a copy of the **MESSENGER** from a friend in New York.)

Francis is 16 years old. He has one brother and two sisters. One of them teaches school. I was very inspired to hear that Francis was working as a Mission catechist. It really makes us think — we pleasure-seeking American youths.

Francis says that he and others are always interested in American books, papers and magazines. I have shown his letter to several of my friends who promise to give a helping hand. I am enclosing a dollar to subscribe to **ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER** for Francis.

If you have any suggestions as to how I might go about helping my African brothers and sisters, I would appreciate hearing from you. Both the white and colored S.V.D. Fathers are doing a grand job over there.

Again, I want to thank you, Father Howard, and I hope that I will sometime or other be able to do something for our Lord as you and Francis and so many others are doing.

Irene Frances Murray, age 15
1007 Mullett Street
Detroit, Mich.

Francis must have written a very nice letter, and I'll bet you were thrilled when you got that first letter from Africa. It is very kind of you to pay for a subscription for Francis.



ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

Besides sending books and magazines, you might help also by praying for the success of the African Missions, that more of the people may be converted from their paganism, that more missionary priests, Brothers and Sisters may be able to work in Africa. You might try gathering a small group of your school-mates to study up and learn more about the Missions in Africa, to send little donations to the missionaries to help carry on their work, to exchange letters with the pupils of one of the Mission schools in Africa for the purpose of information and encouragement, and so on. As you learn more about the Missions other ideas will surely come to you.

Dear Father Howard: I forgot to tell you in my other letter that I had seen one of the boys from the Seminary, and he was telling me about your running a mission in Minnesota. He also told me how beautiful the Seminary is, and how he loves being there.

Father, when you are praying please remember me and also all our boys that are leaving school on account of the war. And while you are praying, remember all our people who are not Catholics.

This is about all I can write about. I'll write more next time. A lover of the Sacred Heart,

Bertha Chastang
R.F.D. 1, Box 59
Mount Vernon, Ala.
(St. Peter's School)

PS. Please try to visit our school again this year.

Yes, I will remember you and the others in my prayers. Maybe I shall get the chance to visit your school this year. Anyway, thanks for the invitation.

Dear Father Howard: I thank you for the Mission and the training you gave us. I am trying to live up to it. Father, you don't know how we miss you. It seems as if we ought to be in church every night.

Father, I want you to pray for me that when I finish Holy Family School I may be able to go to St. Mary's Academy in New Orleans, and ask the priests and Seminary boys to do the same. I am still praying for you.

Father, we received our report cards the first of the month, and I was glad. Father Massey came and read them out, but I don't like that very much.

Father, some of our children are going to become Catholics. I hope you will be able to come back next year. I wish you could stay with us all the time; it seems as if we are lonesome without you. Don't wait so long to come. Please bring your movies of the



Seminary. I would like very much to see them. Again I thank you for your kindness. May God ever bless you. Yours sincerely,

Mona Humphries, Grade 6
Holy Family School
113 Seventh Street
Apalachicola, Fla.

I have asked the Fathers and Seminarians to remember you in their prayers, and I do hope that you will be able to attend St. Mary's. The very next time that I come that way I will certainly try to bring the movies. Thanks for your prayers.

Dear Father Howard: We prayed that you would return to the Seminary safely. Did you get there all right? How did you enjoy your trip back home?

We enjoyed the Children's Mission. It taught us to love God more. We hope you will come again. We are glad you came, and sorry you could not stay.

We hope to visit the Seminary some day. May God bless you and your work. Your little friends,

Grades 4 and 5
by Charles Osborne
Holy Family School
Apalachicola, Fla.

Thanks a lot, my Little Friends, for that very nice letter. And, Charlie, when you come to visit the Seminary maybe you will want to stay, maybe, yes?

Dear Father Howard: I am very sorry you could not stay another week. May God bless you for the Mission you gave us. I remember you in my prayers.

I am taking instructions from Father every evening to become a Catholic. Father, I am going to try to be a good Catholic. I intend

(Continued on page 239)



With our SVD Fathers on the Colored Missions

Appointment

Father Denis Guiner, S.V.D., who completed his seminary course at St. Mary's Mission House, Tech-ny, Ill., last June, has been appointed assistant to Father Joseph Ford, S.V. D., pastor of the Church of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, Tren-ton, N. J. Father Guiner hails from New York City.

School Enrollment

Father Joseph Holken, S.V. D., pastor of St. Rose de Lima Mission in Bay Saint Louis, Miss., is proud of the fact that his school enrollment of 225 is just about double that of the local colored public school. The difference in the high school enrollment is even greater. St. Rose's School has 51 high school students, the public school has 19.

Bought: One Jeep!

You can't blame Father Gerard Heffels, S.V. D., for feeling extra good these days. His school chil-dren (St. Anselm's School, Chicago, Ill.) went over the top in their re-cent War Stamp drive and bought a jeep for the United States Army. Good work, Father, Sisters and chil-dren; keep it up!

Parish Credit Union

Father Maxine Williams, S.V. D., informs us that the Parish Credit Union, which he started in Immacu-late Heart of Mary Parish, Lafa-yette, La., a little over a year ago, now has 54 active members and assets of \$1,000. The loans made thus far total about \$500. Thus the Parish Credit Union has again proved it-self.



THEY SMILE IN SPITE OF DIFFICULTIES

Jackson and Vicksburg, Miss., are stony corners of the Lord's Vineyard, but these four smiling S.V. D. missionaries are doing their best to clear the ground for a more fruitful harvest. (Left to right) Fathers Clement Mathis, Francis Tetzlaff, Francis Baltes, and Robert O'Leary

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

Negro Priests in the Lafayette Diocese

(Continued from page 229)

Winters, S.V. D., assisting him. These same Fathers also take care of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in St. John, La., and St. Anthony's Church in Cade, La.

That the work of the colored Fathers is satisfactory and making progress is attested thus by the Bishop of Lafayette in a letter published elsewhere in this issue. "The advent of the colored priests in the Diocese marks a new step in the work for our colored people. The enthusiasm with which they were received, and the splendid work they are doing in the three parishes now entirely under their direction, slay, for all time, the groundless and mischievous myth, that the colored people did not care to have priests of their own race to minister to them."

Again, on June 8, 1942, speaking at a Rural Life Conference, Bishop Jeanmard said: "As for myself, I am absolutely convinced that the colored priests will play an important part in the conversion of their non-Catholic brethren."

Children's Corner

(Continued from page 237)

to go to a Catholic high school after graduation. May God bless you. Respectfully yours,
Gladys Billings, Grade 8
197 Eighth Street
Apalachicola, Fla.

Gladys, when you are baptized, please let me know. That will be a happy occasion for me, too. I know that you are going to try to be a good Catholic. Do not worry, God will certainly help you.

Dear Father Howard: May the Christ Child bless you for the wonderful things you taught us. I appreciate them very much, and am going to try to live up to them.

I am praying for you that you may succeed in your other Missions. I certainly miss you and the Mission, but it was so that you could not stay. I hope that you will come back.

I am not a Catholic yet, but I am praying very hard that some day my mother will let me become one soon. Please pray for me, and ask the boys and priests at the Seminary to pray for me too.

I just received my report card. I did not do so well in my studies this month, but I am trying to improve.

I am going to remember you in my prayers, and ask to be remembered in yours. I would like very much to go to a Catholic high school when I finish here, but I know it is impossible.

May the Almighty God bless you. Very sincerely yours,

Myrtle Gallon, Grade 7
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Nothing is impossible to God, Myrtle, so keep on praying and hoping to become a Catholic and to attend a Catholic high school if it is the good God's Will, and we shall see. I have asked the Fathers and students here at the Seminary to pray for you, and you will be remembered in my prayers, also. Never give up when you know you are right!

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I wish each one of you a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR! And please ask the dear Christ Child to bless the Colored Missions and the missionaries.

FATHER HOWARD, S.V.D.
Bay Saint Louis, Miss.

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